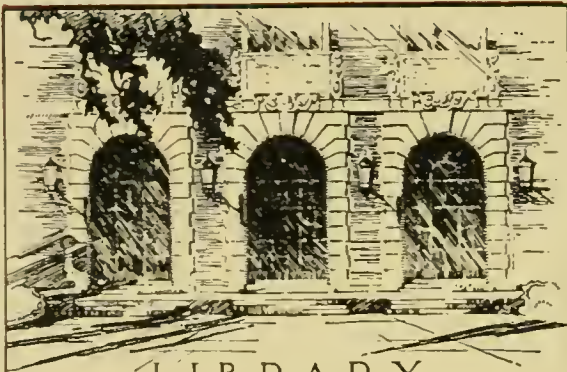




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NED CLINTON;

OR,

THE COMMISSARY:

COMPRISING

ADVENTURES,

AND EVENTS DURING THE PENINSULAR WAR:

WITH

Curious and original Anecdotes

OF

MILITARY,

AND OTHER REMARKABLE CHARACTERS.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

FRANCIS GEASLE

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NED CLINTON ;

OR,

THE COMMISSARY.

CHAPTER I.

Ned Clinton's Parents and their Family described. — His Appointment to the Situation of a Commissary's Clerk.

IT was my father's misfortune to be born a gentleman; he derived his origin from a noble family; and it was my mother's misfortune to marry this poor descendant of nobility, to whose trifling fortune of about three thousand pounds she added as many more, being her entire portion, although the daughter of an old English baronet.

My father commenced his career in the army, with the most brilliant prospects of preferment, but being disgusted, after a few years of service, at the promotion of a junior officer over his head, he retired upon half-pay, when only a captain of infantry, and shortly afterwards got married; after which he thought no more of military service.

Though fortune bestowed some of her blessings upon my father with a sparing hand, she was generous enough in showering down others: at forty years of age he was blest with seven children, five of whom were daughters, yet at this time he was master of barely two hundred pounds per annum; for in spite of strict economy and excellent management, the expenses of supporting a large family had gradually diminished his income, and filled his mind with melancholy apprehensions for the future. It is true, he had made various efforts for bettering his fortune, but they all failed; his interest was lost by the death of his grandfather, an English earl; he dared not embark his little capital in trade, while some speculations

made by him in the funds and other channels had been attended with loss. Thus, at an early age, he patiently sat down in the country, in despair of improving an income upon which his utmost hope was merely to rear and educate his young family; and with no other choice left him than that of selecting his place of retreat, which he did at a small village about ten miles from London.

My father divided his time almost entirely between the education of his children and the cultivation of a large garden; and his family were generally acknowledged to be the most regular in the neighbourhood. We rose soon after day-light the whole year round, and retired to rest early at night. We had stated hours for study, for recreation, and for meals. The children were treated with uniform kindness by both parents, and our lives exhibited one scene of tranquillity, happiness, and health. In this smooth way things were conducted in my father's house during the whole time I remained at home. I was the eldest child, and, when scarcely

seventeen years old, my father obtained for me the situation of a commissary's clerk in the British army, which was not difficult to be got at that time, when the war was carried on with great vigour.

Never shall I forget the joyful sensations I experienced on first hearing of this appointment; my heart bounded with raptures; and for several days I continued in a sort of pleasurable phrensy, which rendered me totally unfit to receive either instruction or advice. But I was soon roused from this reverie by receiving an order to proceed without delay to the Isle of Wight.

This order caused much activity in our family. My father relaxed in his attention to the childrens' education; my mother showed more than usual fondness towards her eldest child; my brother and sisters contended which should most attend upon me; in short, every individual, not only of our family but amongst our neighbours, seemed desirous of paying me attention; and almost every one of them gave me some friendly keepsake. A maiden aunt, one of

the sisters of my mother, presented me with an old family gold watch, of antique fashion, and detailed a tedious history of our various ancestors to whom it had successively belonged, accompanied by a thousand cautions about preserving it in safety, which I promised most faithfully to attend to, and at my death to bequeath it and its history as heir looms to my posterity. My father gave me ten guineas and his old regulation sword, with the following advice: “ You are upon the point, my dear boy, of entering upon a perilous career, but let your conduct at all times be guided by the precepts of religion, and this career must prove honorable: religion alone can support you with dignity under the most severe trials, and cheer you under the greatest difficulties—so useful and so pleasing to mankind is this sacred duty. Be obedient to your superiors, and strive to meet their wishes before you receive their commands. Listen to others with attention, for you may sometimes obtain knowledge, but always the good offices of the speaker, while

inattention is rarely forgiven. Yet reflect well ere you speak, for words once escaped are not to be recalled, and are too often treasured up for some favorable opportunity of injuring their author. Be slow in forming an intimacy, but having made a friend, always act so as to merit the continuation of his friendship; for a real friend certainly is the greatest, though perhaps the rarest of treasures."

In this strain, upon the morning of my departure from home, my father gave me much salutary advice, of which (I am sorry to say, and the reader will too soon discover it) I made but a poor use.

What spare room remained in my trunk, after putting into it a good stock of clothes, was stuffed full of the various keepsakes with which I had been presented; and I was nearly smothered with embraces before I entered the coach. My brother and sisters could scarcely be separated from me; and my dear mother, as she gave me her last embrace, put a locket round my neck, filled with her hair, and, as I got into the stage

coach, slipped a purse into my hand containing ten golden guineas. Thus, with blessings following me from every quarter, I left this happy home to commence my career in public life.

CHAPTER II.

*Clinton's Journey to the Isle of Wight, and
an unfortunate Adventure there.*

I SHED a few tears of gratitude and affection as the coach passed through our village, but they were speedily wiped away, while my heart leaped with joy at the pleasing prospects a lively imagination laid before me. I pictured to myself, that my success in life would be certain, and my pleasures endless; that the world would be kind and sincere, and that I should always be happy. Indeed, I was so completely wrapped up in this delusive reverie, that, for a considerable length of time, I neither noticed the persons of my fellow-travellers, nor attended to their conversation. I thought of little else than my riches and bright prospects, while the

possibility of an accident, or reverse of fortune, never entered my brain.

At last, for all things must have an end, I turned my attention towards the other passengers, who consisted of a fat short elderly woman and three gentlemen. Two of the gentlemen were advanced in years; the third was a young man, apparently about twenty years of age, possessed of a good person, and very prepossessing manners. He appeared to be well educated, at least I judged him to be so, from his frequent quotations of Latin, French, and Italian authors; while, from the elegance of his clothes, I also judged him to be a young gentleman in easy circumstances and of superior taste. His attentions to the passengers were general, and extremely pleasing; and even I could not fail noticing that, without giving the smallest information regarding himself, he contrived, by the suavity of his manners, to find out the business and pursuits of all the rest of the passengers. Towards the conclusion of our journey he became extremely attentive to me, and upon learning that I

was going to the Isle of Wight, he proposed our crossing the water together, observing, that he was also going there; but whether it was from my being wrapt up in my own fancied consequence, or from conceiving a prejudice against him because he squinted, I certainly slighted his advances. The old lady made herself truly ridiculous during the whole journey to Portsmouth, both by her violent and constant exclamations of fear, when there was no danger, and by her repeated promises to the two coachmen who successively drove us, that she would make each of them a handsome present if he drove her in safety; and yet, after all her professions, she gave the coachmen only sixpence each, though all the other passengers gave them a shilling.

The two elder gentlemen (as I learnt by their conversation on the journey) were a methodist parson and a quack doctor; and, doubtless, from their canting manners and language, they were two thoroughbred *charlatans* in their several callings. It was really amusing to hear them and

the old lady, as she uttered violent exclamations of terror at every sudden move of the coach, the one persisted in striving to comfort her by quotations from holy writ, while the other as obstinately persevered in recommending her a nostrum for the body. Thus between the spiritual man, who laboured for the advantage of her soul, and the quack, who fain would administer a specific to comfort her unwieldy carcass, the old woman was overwhelmed with advice, though at every fresh exclamation she uttered, it evidently appeared that she had forgot all the arguments of these learned gentlemen ; for to reason with her was like preaching to the wind.

I saw no more of the divine nor of the man of physic after our arrival at Portsmouth, but on the passage, next morning, to the Isle of Wight, I met my civil fellow-traveller and the old lady, who entertained the company on board by acting a similar farce to what she had done in the coach. In short, she uttered frightful screeches at every motion of the vessel, and repeatedly promised the master

and every one of the sailors in his turn (not excepting the cabin-boy), a handsome present if he conveyed her safe to the Isle of Wight. Yet, when she got there, she gave nothing more than the bare passage-money, and even higgled about that before she paid it.

When the boat arrived at Cowes, Charles Armstrong, Esq. (for so my agreeable companion was designated) proposed our dining together. Our intimacy improved at this meal, and that same evening we proceeded in the stage coach to Newport, the capital of that fertile island, and which was the place of my destination. We supped together, and slept at the same inn, and on the following morning I reported my arrival, according to instructions, to the senior officer of the commissariat department, who, after giving me his orders, stated that the barracks were fully occupied, and that I must provide myself with a lodging. On my telling this to Mr. Armstrong, he proposed our lodging together, both to serve the purposes of economy and society; and, as I gladly availed myself of

the proposal, we immediately took a good lodging in the centre of the town, at a price far exceeding what I was justified in giving the moiety of; but my youth and ignorance prevented my looking to consequences, while I thought my twenty guineas an endless store of treasure.

We now lived on the best possible terms together, and I found myself so extremely happy in this new friend's society, that when I wrote home, I detailed to my parents all the particulars concerning the acquaintance I had formed with this accomplished young gentleman, not forgetting to dwell upon the happiness it had occasioned me.

I have already said, that I quitted home with a good supply of clothes, therefore I now wanted little more than food and lodging; but this was not the case with my friend, who, it appeared, had left London for a trifling excursion of pleasure, and travelled with only a change or two of linen and one suit of clothes, but finding himself extremely happy in my company (as he was pleased to say),

he altered his plan, resolving that he would stay a few weeks in the island.

This arrangement required a fresh supply of clothes, and my friend considered it better to buy new ones than send home for others, and accordingly he employed a fashionable tradesman of the place to make him a handsome suit of clothes. His order was well executed, and the polite tailor so accommodating as to take his bill upon a London banker for twenty pounds, and to give him ready cash for the difference, after deducting the price of the clothes. A shoemaker, from whom he purchased a couple of pair of boots, also accommodated Mr. Armstrong in a similar manner, on receiving his bill for ten pounds.

We passed away some pleasant days together, during which I had little to do in the commissariat department, and I avoided forming any intimacy with my fellow-clerks, being altogether engaged in the society of my friend, of whose acquaintance I felt very proud. But, alas! I was soon doomed to alter my sentiments, and taught to be satisfied with

the more humble company of my brother clerks.

It was on the tenth morning after my arrival at Newport, when I went by invitation to breakfast with a married commissary, dressed in my best suit, and having on my new white uniform small clothes, my watch being left at home that the seals might not soil the leather. Towards the hour of dinner I returned home, and enquired for Mr. Armstrong, when I was informed that he had left the house soon after me in the morning, taking a porter with him to carry a large trunk. On hearing this account I felt quite bewildered, yet, from the spontaneous impulse of my feelings, I immediately run up stairs to look after my property, well knowing that Mr. Armstrong had no trunk. But, alas! what were my frightful sensations on discovering that all I had possessed was gone.

Thus did this accomplished swindler deprive me of my property, and teach me the first practical lesson of worldly baseness. He left me possessed of nothing more than the few shillings I chanced to have in my pocket, the

clothes on my body, the old sword, and the locket on my neck ; while, to add to the mischief, I was indebted for the rent of the lodging, and what was still worse, suspected of being his colleague in several swindling transactions, particularly those by which he obtained the boots, clothes, and differences in money for the bills he had given, and which were returned from London *protested*, the morning after his cavalier departure.

I vainly endeavoured to trace him, but all I could learn was, that he had been seen travelling to the sea-port town of Ryde in a returned chaise, with my trunk strapped on the top of it. While, from that day to the present time, I have neither seen nor heard more of this accomplished swindler.

CHAPTER III.

Clinton writes to his Father.—Is put under Arrest, and released.

No sooner had my misfortune become publicly known than the landlady pressed me for the payment of her rent; and the butcher, baker, and other tradespeople, for the sums due to them, so that I was driven to the necessity of asking a delay of several days, to enable me to obtain money from home to discharge these claims. It was a painful task to write to my father on this subject, having scarcely left home ere all the fruits of his kindness had been lost, and his unfortunate son rendered totally destitute, by an improvident intimacy with a dexterous sharper; but my exigencies were urgent, and I was compelled to make my case known.

After this unfortunate day, I passed the first

sleepless night that I recollect having experienced ; and early next morning, I was surprised by a visit from the depôt-adjutant, who, without ceremony, put a written paper into my hand, to the following effect :—

“ Commissary clerk, Edward Clinton, is hereby placed under arrest by Lieutenant-Colonel Toger, for improper conduct to various inhabitants of Newport ; and on suspicion of collusion in various frauds committed by a professed swindler.

(Signed) WILLIAM CHAPMAN,
Lieut. and Adjutant to the Depôt.”

After making this communication, the adjutant took his departure, leaving me in a state of mind too miserable to be described. Even my landlady saw and felt compassion for my agony ; and a fellow-clerk in the commissariat, named Glover (with whom I had formed a slight acquaintance), called upon me to offer his services and advice. I showed him the order by which I had been placed under arrest, and he desired me to tell him most candidly

what transactions had passed between Mr. Armstrong and I, on which I informed him of every thing that had happened to me from the time I quitted home. He told me not to be alarmed, for, undoubtedly, when my innocence became known, I should be released from confinement; and he quitted me with a promise of exerting himself with the chief commissary, to get him to represent my case for the favourable consideration of the commandant.

During the whole of this day I continued in a state of great mental agony, and at night found myself extremely ill with fever. The next morning I was still worse, and when Mr. Glover called to inform me that the commandant was too much irritated against me to listen to what had been stated by the commissary-general, he found me so very ill, that, without letting me know his intentions, he hurried away to the barracks for medical assistance, and shortly afterwards returned in company with Mr. Frome, a staff-surgeon, most deservedly celebrated for medical skill. The surgeon examined my pulse, questioned

me *secundum artem*, and sent medicines from the barrack hospital; but still my fever increased, and, on his second visit he brought with him the celebrated Dr. Jackman, physician of the depôt, a gentleman nick-named the Sangrado of the British army. The physician shook his bald pate with vast sagacity as he examined me, which done, he ordered a copious bleeding, a variety of drugs, and an antiflogestic regimen, at the same time observing to the surgeon, that my life could only be saved by these means.

Mr. Frome not having a lancet in his pocket, these sons of Æsculapius took their departure together, the surgeon observing, that he should return in the course of an hour to bleed me. They were scarcely out of the house when my friend Glover entered, and after hastily questioning me concerning the state of my fever, said he was the bearer of good news, which he hoped would benefit my health, in a word, "that the commandant" (to use his own words), "though at first prejudiced against you, has most attentively listened to the statement of the

commissary-general, which has considerably changed his opinion; and when he heard that you was the son of his old friend, Captain Clinton, he became much interested about you, and sent his adjutant to make enquiries of the tradespeople into your affairs; but that the result of these enquiries has not as yet transpired; though," added Glover, "since you are innocent, my dear fellow, it cannot be otherwise than favourable."

These cheering tidings were scarcely communicated, ere the landlady entered the room with a letter from my father, which I opened in the presence of my friend. It contained a bank bill, sufficient for my exigencies, together with the most kind and excellent advice, of which I well remember the following sentences: "My dear boy, you have been unfortunate, but your misfortune has arisen from your imprudence. You hastily formed an improper intimacy with a perfect stranger, and you have paid dearly for it. Let this example prove a lesson to you, and the money will not be thrown away. In future select your familiar acquaintances from amongs

those who are engaged in pursuits similar to your own, and whose characters are established for worth. The money I send can be ill spared by my family, but I shall not regret the loss of it, provided my son proves to be one of those on whom experience is not thrown away."

This kind letter, in addition to Glover's cheering tidings, had such a salutary effect upon my constitution, that my fever immediately subsided, as if by magic, and I got up. Soon after I was dressed, the landlady entered, to announce Colonel Toger and his adjutant. I felt disconcerted at this visit, but, by the colonel's extreme condescension and kindness, I quickly resumed my usual confidence. He shook me cordially by the hand, and said, he felt much pleasure in doing an act of justice by releasing me from arrest; that he had ascertained I was perfectly innocent of the alledged offences, and had been the dupe of a sharper; besides, he had been informed that I was the son of his old and highly-esteemed friend, Captain Clinton, and

he would regard me on my father's account, and if I wanted money supply me.

I thanked the colonel, in the warmest language of my heart, and begged him, for the proof of my birth, to read the letter just received from my father. He complied, and read the letter with great attention, though evidently affected by its contents; observing, that my father still possessed the same warm heart he knew him to do when a boy.

Here we were interrupted by the entrance of the surgeon, who came for the purpose of bleeding me. He was astonished at all he saw; his patient up, and apparently well, with the commandant in his room, and evidently on easy familiar terms together. The commandant on such terms with a paltry commissary's clerk, seemed more than he could comprehend.

But all doubts were speedily removed by the colonel asking if he had a patient in that house? which question led to an explanation, as also to another examination of my tongue and pulse, at which the surgeon found me so

well in health, that, *malgré* all the sage prognostics of Sangrado Jackman, he observed, it was unnecessary to bleed me. And upon the colonel's enquiring if I might venture to dine out, he said that, provided I acted with moderation, he would not object to it; upon which the colonel invited the whole party to dine with him, and then, with a smile, he directed his adjutant to have Doctor Jackman invited also, that he might witness the magical recovery of his young patient, without even the aid of drugs, venesection, or his anti-flogestic regimen.

CHAPTER IV.

*Clinton is ordered on Foreign Service.—
Proceeds to Portsmouth.—A Night Ad-
venture there.*

AFTER the preceding adventures, my time passed very pleasantly for the few days I remained at Newport, being constantly invited to dine with Colonel Toger, or some of his friends; but after the expiration of a week, spent in this agreeable manner, I received orders to proceed forthwith to Portsmouth, there to embark for Lisbon, with stores destined for the use of the army serving in the Spanish peninsula.

I dined with the colonel the day preceding my departure, and, on taking leave of him in the evening, he presented me with a letter of recommendation to Deputy Commissary-General Porter, an intimate friend of his,

then serving in the peninsula. He also presented me with a handsome gold watch, kindly observing, that my father had supplied my pecuniary wants, but a watch was absolutely necessary in my situation, therefore he trusted I should not be offended with an old soldier, the early friend and companion of my worthy father, for presenting me with one.

I thanked the colonel in the best language I could for these tokens of his regard, as also for the many favors I had received at his hands during the short time I had been honored with his acquaintance, and, at an early hour on the following morning, I proceeded to Cowes, from whence I crossed to Portsmouth, in company with my friend Glover, who had received a similar order to mine.

At Portsmouth we took up our abode at the Crown hotel, where, having deposited our baggage (and, by the by, mine was not very cumbersome), we reported our arrival to the proper authority, and received orders to embark early the next morning on board the Hercules transport brig.

As neither Glover nor I were employed in the business of the commissariat on the day we remained at Portsmouth, we were enabled to pass it in a most agreeable manner, by visiting the dock-yard, and viewing the harbour and fortifications, as also crossing to Gosport. We were vastly astonished at the ingenious inventions and powerful machinery we saw employed in the dock-yard; and it was late in the evening ere we got back to the inn, our minds filled with admiration and wonder.

After regaling ourselves with a hearty repast, our attention was attracted towards the rest of the company in the coffee-room. Every box had its share, for Portsmouth was at this time full of maritime and military people; a fleet of transports, and various other ships, being detained there for convoy.

I shall not attempt a minute description of the strange characters assembled in the coffee-room, but content myself with observing, that there appeared to be people there of almost every sort, including the blustering sailor, the wily Jew, and the poor conceited military

officer; nor was there any lack of pursers, surgeons, paymasters, purveyors, slopsellers, and quartermasters. The conversation, of course, was as various as the company; ships, campaigns, sieges, shipwrecks, physic, stores, money, and provisions, were, in their several turns, the leading topics of discussion; and, as the various orators elevated their voices, either from the warmth of argument or the strength of liquor, we could not avoid paying some attention to the different subjects, and the odd ways in which they were discussed. In the box opposite to our's were seated two gentlemen, one of them a middle aged man, tolerably well dressed; the other, a tall elegant young fellow, dressed in a black cravat and a richly laced military great coat, buttoned close round his body, from the neck down to the knees; the coat even reaching to his ancles, and showing nothing more than the lower parts of his boots beneath it.

These gentlemen conversed together in an elevated authoritative manner, and really appeared to Glover and I to be people of greater consequence than the rest of the com-

pany. They retired to bed before we did, the shorter gentleman giving orders to be called at four o'clock, observing that he had to depart by a certain stage coach at that hour. On quitting the coffee-room for their chambers they shook hands, the tall gentleman wishing the other a pleasant journey.

Glover and I, having to embark next morning, retired to rest at an early hour; but, about five o'clock in the morning, I was awoken by an extraordinary loud noise, which issued from an adjacent chamber, and was occasioned by a man swearing in a tremendous voice that he had been robbed; that his breeches were stolen from under his pillow, and that he had lost in the pockets of them property to a great amount, including his gold one hundred guinea watch, his pocket book, his purse of money, and his diamond ring; "ah, and by Jasus," said he, in a still more thundering voice than before, "my gold snuff-box too!"

He continued vociferating, in the most violent manner possible, for a considerable length of time, swearing he would have re-

dress ; by all that's sacred he would have redress ; while the landlord's voice was also heard, but only occasionally, in a low key, as if reasoning with the outrageous person, and trying to soothe and content him.

This disturbance continued for upwards of half an hour, after which every person was quiet in the inn ; and when I got up, and enquired of the landlord into this business, I found that the tall gentleman, dressed in the richly laced coat, was the person who had been robbed during the night, though by whom the landlord could form no idea, no one having broken into the house, and no person having left it that morning, except the gentleman's late companion.

The landlord further told me, that for the credit of his house he had proposed making the unfortunate gentleman some compensation for his losses, to which he had been very unwilling to consent, though at last he had appeased him, by giving his (the landlord's) own best breeches, and thirty pounds in money ; yet that the gentleman had still continued so indignant at what had happened,

that he most disdainfully stalked out of the inn as soon as he received the money, and was dressed in the landlord's best breeches.

This ludicrous adventure not only afforded merriment to every person in the house, except the landlord and his family, but served to entertain the whole town; nor was the story made less amusing by a discovery of the chamber-maids, the knowledge of which reached Glover and I, while at breakfast in the coffee-room. It appeared, that when making the gentleman's bed, who had obtained the remuneration for having been robbed, she found a pawnbroker's duplicate, dated the preceding day, for the sum of fifteen shillings, lent on a pair of kerseymere breeches; and shortly afterwards, one of the waiters, in talking the circumstance over to the waiter of a neighbouring tavern, discovered that a person, exactly answering the description of the buttoned-up gentleman, had employed the said waiter, on the preceding day, to pawn a pair of kerseymere small-clothes, for the sum of fifteen shillings, to enable him to discharge his bill at that tavern.

But although these particulars added much to the drollery of the story, they also added to the poor landlord's dismay, whose eyes were opened too late to save his pocket.

CHAPTER V.

*Clinton's reception on board the Hercules.
—Some Particulars of the Passengers,
and of the Voyage to Lisbon.*

WHEN Glover and I embarked on board the Hercules, Capt. Levett directed that our baggage should be carried into the state cabin, but some military officers, already in possession, finding we were nothing more than commissaries' clerks, *sans cérémonie*, ordered our baggage to be tossed upon deck, and also refused us admission into the cabin. Of this conduct we immediately complained to the captain, who joined us in remonstrating with these gentlemen, but to no purpose, for they were alike indifferent to his reasoning as our's; and a shower of rain coming on soon after we embarked, drove us to the disagreeable necessity of descending for shelter, with

our luggage, into the middle deck, which was crammed full of soldiers, their wives, and children ; and so extremely hot and offensive, that we both found ourselves ill after remaining a few minutes there. Indeed, so intolerable was the stench of this place, that we soon ascended upon deck, preferring exposure to the rain above, than suffering this horrid nuisance.

From one of the serjeants (named Read) we learnt the characters of the officers of his regiment who were on board. The commanding officer was Captain Fullertrick, who, by the serjeant's account, was a sly designing fellow, a thorough sycophant to his superiors, and constantly intriguing for his own advancement ; no matter by what means, however vile or unjust to others. The next senior officer was Captain Blunt, a blustering fellow, who affected an honest openness of manners, which enabled him to say many rude things with impunity, which could not be tolerated from any one else : this gentleman was also remarkable for his love of field sports, and pugilistic contests.

The first subaltern was Lieutenant Man, who acted as adjutant, a person who prided himself on winning the knowledge of people's secrets, by professing friendship towards them, and appearing warmly interested in their behalf; yet, at bottom, a good-for-nothing character, courting and betraying every man, as it served his own selfish purpose, but always leaning towards his commanding officer, to whom he was notorious for being attentive and submissive, though troublesome and arbitrary to the soldiers, with whose wives he was constantly intriguing. Johns, Hill, Millet, Cope, and Wright, were the other subaltern officers on board; the first and second of whom were disliked by the soldiers, for their overbearing tyrannical conduct. Millet possessed the affections of the men, and was remarkable for manly independence of character; Cope was a mean shallow fellow, and selfish in every respect; while the junior officer, Wright, was beloved by the whole corps, being a noble-minded manly young fellow, always ready to do a good action, or enter into a spirited adventure.

But the most extraordinary person in the ship was Quartermaster M'Sawney, a thorough-bred North Briton, vulgar in his manners, and ignorant of every thing except the art of making money and rising in the world, through a course of the most persevering sycophancy and finesse. He had been a servant, a sailor, a negro-driver, a common soldier, and had afterwards risen to be a serjeant, a quartermaster-serjeant, and a quartermaster: was humble as the dog that licks his master's feet, to those above him, but haughty and insolent to those beneath him, as a governing Turk to the meanest of his slaves. In short, this man's vulgarity could only be equalled by his ignorance, and his insolence by his meanness.

The other military person on board was Assistant-surgeon Evans, a Welchman, clever in his profession, but thoroughly obstinate in his opinions, and always ready to argue with any man upon any point, for this gentleman's opinions deviated from other people's on every occasion. He was also remarkable for bearing great antipathy towards the Irish.

After the serjeant had given us these particulars concerning the military gentlemen, he told us he expected a senior captain to either of those now on board, and whom the soldiers were anxious to see embark; that his name was Grove, and he was an Englishman of good property and connections, not a mean sneaking adventurer like some of the others, but a perfect gentleman, much beloved by the men, who well knew him to be their friend; and as sincere in his intentions, as frank in his manners to them. In short, that any good soldier might address him with confidence, certain of obtaining full justice from an officer, looked up to as a father by his own company, and beloved by the whole regiment.

This favorite friend of the soldiers came on board in the afternoon, and I was pleased at recollecting I had dined in his company at Colonel Toger's; nor was he long in the brig ere he recognised me, and enquired if I was going to Lisbon with them. Glover was near me at the time, and having replied in the affirmative, I solicited a private audience of the captain, which he readily granted, and

Glover and I stated our complaints. He appeared somewhat surprised, and desired us to remain upon deck until he communicated with us again on this subject; after which, he assembled the officers in the state cabin, and the result of the meeting was, that the adjutant soon came to us with an invitation from the officers to send our baggage into the cabin, where they should feel happy in our company to join their mess.

Of course we were not slow in complying with this acceptable invitation, and were cordially received by Captain Grove and several of the other officers, particularly Lieutenants Millet and Wright and the Welch surgeon; though in the countenances of some of the officers dissatisfaction and spleen were evidently marked. We dined with the officers that day, and after dinner the mess arrangements were made, and Glover and I paid our shares of money for the stock of fresh provisions; while at night, as there were but eight births in the cabin (which are chosen by seniority of rank), we were obliged to spread our mattresses upon the deck.

At day-light on the following morning we weighed anchor, and set sail for Lisbon, in a fleet of ten sail of transports and several other vessels, under the convoy of a sloop of war. We passed through the Needles with a light breeze, at an easy pleasant rate, while I enjoyed the most exquisite sensations on this auspicious commencement of my first voyage. But these delightful feelings were soon damped ; for, when agreeable to summons, I descended into the cabin to partake of breakfast, I found it impracticable to eat, as all the violent symptoms of sea-sickness suddenly attacked me, and I was glad to return to the upper deck for temporary relief. The breeze freshened, and my illness increased : I felt miserably wretched, as every one who suffers from sea-sickness must. But I shall not attempt the description of an illness which so large a portion of my countrymen have been practicably sensible of, more particularly, as its agonizing torments are forgotten by us almost as soon as over. Suffice it to say, that I endured much by sickness for three days, neither being able to sit up nor

lie down with the smallest comfort during the whole period ; and my sufferings would have been made still more severe, from the want of a bed to lie upon during the day, had not Lieutenant Wright indulged me with the use of his.

Glover, who had been a voyage before, escaped this misery, as did most of the officers, one or two of them only experiencing it ; nor did they suffer half so severely as I, to whom the mere sight or smell of victuals invariably brought on a return of the illness,

The wind continued moderate and fair, and our progress was consequently steady and considerable, On the fourth day I was able to dine at table. The dinners were good, and the conversation often entertaining. During the day some of the officers amused themselves by playing at cards, draughts, or backgammon, and in the evening smoking and drinking grog were added to these pastimes.

It is on board a ship, upon a voyage, that mens' characters are seen under the least

disguise. It is here that constraint is forgotten, and assumed habits thrown aside. Strange as it may seem, yet it is true, that a man who passes for a finished gentleman on shore, frequently conducts himself like a thoroughbred blackguard on board. Every thing bad is tolerated at sea (and except on points of duty), all passengers in the same cabin appear to live on a perfect equality; that is to say, they are equally rude, vulgar, obscene, and blasphemous. As at the ancient annual festival of the Roman slaves, so is all regularity and system, as to polite behaviour, overturned in a ship.

Neither were our conversations always friendly, for there existed in the bosoms of some of the officers, much ill-will towards us poor commissaries clerks, which, like a smothered flame, often broke out when least expected. These gentlemen felt indignant at our having been admitted into the cabin, and though they dared not publicly declare these feelings, which were contrary both to the vote of their collective body, and the opinion of their commanding officer, yet they re-

vengeed themselves by taking every possible opportunity of insulting us by insidious observations, and treating us with contempt; though still their conduct was not sufficiently marked to justify us in publicly resenting it.

No event of importance occurred during the voyage, except on the seventh morning, before any of the cabin passengers had risen, when there was a general cry of fire throughout the vessel, which alarmed us to so great a degree, that every individual hastily ran upon deck, without even waiting to put on an article of clothing. It was a laughable sight to see the deck, on a rainy morning, covered with people, mostly in their shirts or shifts; for soldiers, sailors, women, and children, had assembled promiscuously in a like hurried manner.

The alarm had been caused by the upsetting of a pot of boiling pitch, but fortunately the accident happened upon the upper deck, where there were no combustible articles in the way, and consequently the fire was speedily extinguished, without causing any serious mischief, and we all returned to our

nesses to laugh over the adventure. This same day the intelligent Serjeant Read (who gave us the information concerning the officers) happened to fall overboard, while the brig was going at the rate of five knots an hour ; fortunately he could swim well, and Captain Levett had the jolly-boat manned, and lowered so promptly, that the worthy serjeant's life was preserved, and he was brought on board in safety, to the joy of every person in the brig.

Next day we were gratified by seeing the coast of Portugal, near Lisbon ; but the wind died away, and we could not enter the Tagus. At this time the weather was beautiful, and most of the officers took advantage of it, by having their trunks opened on the after-deck, and their linen exposed in the sun-beams to air. Amongst other linen was that of Lieutenant Cope's, which had been brought upon deck by his servant, unknown to the lieutenant, who happened to be engaged at cards in the cabin. The man had spread the linen upon the rudder-head, the tiller at that moment not being in motion, and the servant perhaps ignorant that when the ship was put

about, or the tiller, from any other cause, turned much to larboard or starboard, there would be an opening on the deck round the rudder, sufficiently large for any article of clothing to fall through into the sea. At this critical moment it so happened that Lieutenant Cope came upon deck, and was the only person who observed the perilous situation of the linen; but the lieutenant was notorious for a love of mischief, and in this instance he was doomed to be punished for it. Far from removing the linen, or pointing out its dangerous position, he inwardly chuckled at what he saw, and remained silent until his shirts and every other article had fallen into the sea, when he triumphantly shouted out to learn, "whose linen had fallen into Davy's locker?" But this unfeeling gentleman who could be vastly merry at any other person's mishap, evinced a different sort of conduct where his personal interest was concerned; for, upon being informed it was his own linen, he abused his servant for more than an hour, swearing the man should make good every shilling of the loss.

The lieutenant met with no commiseration from his comrades, who knew his character too well to regret the loss he had sustained; and though it was also well known to them that he could ill afford to purchase a new stock of linen, yet he was not the less laughed at for this adventure; and it remains a standing joke against him in the regiment; while the cry of "whose linen is gone to Davy's locker?" is still known to the youngest bugle-boy.

I could not resist joining in the general laugh caused by this droll adventure, at which the malignant lieutenant took great offence, though he smothered his resentment for another occasion, being ashamed to notice my laughter while every individual was merry at his expence, and also having enough to do at the moment in abusing his servant; but when the cabin passengers were sitting at table after dinner the same day, this touchy gentleman felt stung at a joke made at his expense by one of the party, and selected that opportunity for attacking me, instead of replying to the joke. "What," said he, almost

choking with rage, "am I to be made the butt of every sneaking fellow? is even a dirty commissariat clerk to turn me into ridicule?"

"Sir," said I, coolly, "if your allusion is intended for me, and I presume it must be, for Mr. Glover was not upon deck when your property fell overboard, I must plainly tell you, and without the smallest circumlocution, that when I laughed, it was not at the accident, but your own behaviour, which made laughter unavoidable; and with regard to the term you have indirectly bestowed upon me, of a dirty commissariat clerk, rest assured it shall reflect disgrace only upon yourself; for before this good company I now assert, that I am neither dirtier nor more sneaking than yourself; and that I am ready to make good my words, when and where you think proper."

The petulant gentleman did not appear to relish this language, and began making a reply which seemed to incline towards an apology, when Captain Grove observed, that this was not a subject to quarrel upon, and that we should act wisely in shaking hands and putting the bottle about. Thus the

argument terminated ; the wine was passed round, but we did not shake hands.

The following morning we entered the Tagus, the beautiful banks of which, at and about Lisbon, are covered with showy and magnificent buildings. We sailed slowly along by the palace of Belem and the grand old Moorish castle standing in the river ; and while I looked on the golden sands of this majestic stream, I mused, and involuntarily sighed, on reflecting upon the fate of poor Camöens, the sweetest of Portuguese poets, whose lines on this river must ever be admired.

CHAPTER VI.

Clinton disembarks at Lisbon.—Dines at a noted Ordinary.—Quarrels there.—An Adventure which befel him on the way home.

GLOVER and I having no charge of stores to detain us in the brig, lost not a moment after she came to anchor, in thanking captains Grove and Levett for their politeness during the voyage, and then proceeded in a Portuguese boat to the shore.

We landed near the beautiful markets for fruit and fish, perhaps the best supplied in Europe, and where almost every thing I observed, either surprised or delighted me. The obsequious beggars particularly amused and forced laughter from my friend and I, as, with their cocked hats in hand, they bowed like finished dancing-masters, impor-

tunately soliciting the meanest trifle, and invoking Santa Maria, and all the blessed saints in the calendar, in their behalf. The closely shaved uncovered heads of the numerous priests seemed to bespeak equal humility, but their scowling eyes and haughty gaits inspire a contrary sensation, and intimate that these men are more to be dreaded than pitied.

My admiration increased as I penetrated further into the town. The magnificence of the public buildings inspires lofty ideas of the former resources of this nation, and the real greatness of its celebrated minister, Pomball ; while Gold and Silver streets plainly evince the flourishing condition of the present traders. But my admiration was embittered by disgust ; for though the houses are beautiful, the streets are filthy ; and, with a climate that is heavenly, the people are addicted to the grossest vices. The whole country swarms with priests, beggars and assassins. A magnificent river flows in vain by this dirtiest of cities, the streets of which are in a state of putrefaction for want of being purified by water. Horribly maimed and shockingly disgusting

objects of deformity are exposed in every thoroughfare, who loudly solicit charity from every passenger; some of these wretches twisting their broken limbs about, and others exposing naked sores, while even dead bodies are laid out in the public streets, until a sufficiency of money is collected on the corpse, from charitable people, to pay for its interment. In short, this place, which might be a sort of Paradise upon earth, is the scene of every thing disgusting and abominable to nature.—It is the very sink of depravity.

After walking through the most fashionable streets of Lisbon, we proceeded to Belem, a village on the banks of the river, about two miles from the town, where the royal palace stands; but, in consequence of the royal family having emigrated to the Brazils, the palace was now occupied by British troops; and the chief commissary at Lisbon resided in it, at whose office Glover and I had to report our arrival, which done, we obtained billets and rations, and received orders to attend on the following morning, to assist at the issue of provisions to the troops.

By the aid of one of the numerous boys who offer their services to the passengers in every part of this town, I soon found my billet, which was upon a grocer in the *rue Saletre*; and the old grocer, after attentively examining my billet and its bearer, led me into a good front room on the second floor, where, with many bows and compliments, made in broken French (for I knew nothing of the Portuguese language, nor the grocer of English), he desired me to make myself quite at home, and consider the room as my own; then, with as many more bows, he wished me a *bonas dias*, and left me in possession of the chamber, which was tolerably well furnished, having a bedstead and bedding, a table, six chairs, a chest of drawers, and a looking-glass in it.

After depositing my luggage in the room, and my rations in the cupboard, I descended the stairs, and meeting my polite landlord in the passage, enquired if he would permit his servant to cook my daily rations and those of a friend, to which request he, with civil words and a profusion of bows, assented.

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This point settled, I hastened to an appointed place, to find Glover, for whom I had to wait upwards of an hour, and when he at length came, he was hot, weary, and full of complaints against the people upon whom he had obtained billets, not having succeeded in making one good out of the first three he had procured, while, at the fourth billet, he had been thrust into a miserable garret, which contained no other furniture than a broken bedstead, a dirty bed, and one chair.

After a laugh at his tribulation, I told him of my success, and the arrangements I had made for our messing together, which gave him much pleasure, being a set-off against his bad luck. Perceiving he was much fatigued, I proposed we should stretch a point for once, and dine at a good ordinary that day, to which he agreed, and, for a trifling *douceur* to a *commissaire* boy, we were conducted to Monsieur Rosa's celebrated house in the *rue de Flora*. We happened to enter as the dinner was being served upon the table, and our hungry sea stomachs enabled us to do more ample justice to the cookery of Monsieur Rosa,

than that *restaurateur* seemed to approve. In truth, we entered the house at so critical an instant, and set-to so vigourously at the work of destruction, that the rest of the company viewed us with astonishment, while we attended to nothing else than the good cheer. But, alas! all sublunary things must have an end. We partook of many a dish before our appetites failed, and we drank many a glass of wine with the good people who invited us, before we knew or cared any thing about who or what they were. We were like devouring locusts, and, doubtless, from the looks and manner of Monsieur Rosa, he thought us most unprofitable guests.

At last, our sea appetites were cloyed, and we found leisure to notice the company and listen to the conversation. At the top of the table sat Madame Le Mark, a lady apparently about sixty years old. She spoke French and Portuguese, but knew nothing of English. On her right sat Major Brock, a British officer, and on her left Captain Pin, an English officer in the Portuguese service. Next to these gentlemen sat two lieutenants of the English navy,

who, with two Portuguese gentlemen, Monsieur Rosa at the lower end of the table, and Glover and I, constituted the entire of the party.

Though most of the company evidently were strangers to each other, the conversation was scandalously indecent, and the old lady expressed delight at many loose remarks, for which their authors ought to have been turned out of the room. Indeed, to so degraded a point were the manners of this society reduced, that the indecent speeches of those British officers who were ignorant of any foreign language, were explained for the edification of this old wanton, who was rich and of a noble family, and from choice lived in this disgusting manner; presiding at a public ordinary, encouraging improper conversation, and more than suspected of being too familiar with the master of the house, who was known to command her purse. At length, to the great satisfaction of the party, she found it advisable to retire, having been so liberally plied with wine that she could with difficulty stagger out of the room.

After the departure of Madame Le Mark,

the company entered into much pleasant conversation, and Glover and I remained at table until it was full time to find our billets and retire to repose ; but, at the moment we rose, Lieutenant Cope entered the room to see Captain Pin, and in compliment to the lieutenant we resumed our places.

No doubt Mr. Cope whispered his friend that we were commissariat clerks, for, after some little time, the conversation turned upon our department, which was treated with great freedom, and, upon one of the party mentioning the clerks, Lieutenant Cope plainly insinuated that he deemed such people unfit for the society of gentlemen ; on which Glover indignantly said, that every person must make a beginning in his profession. The military officer, it was true, generally commenced as an ensign or cornet, though when he began as a cadet it was no disgrace to him, neither did that humble situation disqualify him for the society of gentlemen. In fact, continued he, it is ill-bred in any man to make the insinuation which has been made at this table, and for his part he was not ashamed

to own his situation ; he was but a commissariat clerk, yet he thought himself fit society for any gentlemen, particularly as he was born of good parents, and tolerably well educated.

Mr. Cope replied, that what Mr. Glover had said was undoubtedly correct ; namely, that young men must commence at the bottom of their several professions ; “ but,” added he, “ what gentleman of birth could think of becoming a commissariat clerk.” “ Many,” answered Glover, “ no doubt of as exalted a parentage as yourself, or the generality of military officers.” This speech so nettled the lieutenant, who, by the by, was the son of a retail grocer, that he contemptuously said, it was easy enough to make assertions ; but, for his part, he had heard of commissariat clerks whose parents were any thing else than respectable people. He remembered one of the name of Ross, whose father was a journeyman tailor ; and he had heard of another, whose father watered horses at a hackney-coach stand in Piccadilly. “ All this may be true,” answered Glover, “ yet it does not weaken my assertion, nor reflect disgrace on

my department, any more than my adducing instances of a tailor, or other low person, rising to be an officer in the army, would detract from the respectability of that honorable situation." "You are free, sir, in your comparisons," said Captain Pin, "but ere we become your converts, perhaps, for our conviction, you will be kind enough to specify an instance or two of a respectable youth becoming a commissariat clerk." "I have little acquaintance, as yet, in the department to which I have the honor to belong," replied Glover, "therefore I want opportunities for selection, and must beg you will be content with my parentage and education, and those of Mr. Clinton, for we are neither of us more than clerks." "'Tis well," said Lieutenant Cope, grinning maliciously, "we must be content with these gentlemen, as specimens of the members of their department. Pray, sir, now oblige us with the tale of your pedigrees." "'Tis done, gentlemen," replied Glover most sarcastically, "in a very few words; my education was at the college school at Hereford, where my father lives on

his private property, and has the honor to be an alderman. Mr. Clinton's parentage is noble ; he is well educated ; and his descent on the paternal side, and in no remote degree, is from an English earl, while his mother is the daughter of an old baronet." " Both your families, gentlemen," observed Major Brock, " are truly respectable, and your department may be congratulated on possessing such members." " Yes," major, replied Lieutenant Cope, " should there be no mistake in the pedigrees." " Sir," said I, laughing, and hoping to turn the conversation, " I trust we are not quite so ignorant of our ancestry as you were of your linen, when it fell overboard." " Perhaps not," cried the lieutenant, " but when we are ignorant of our ancestry, 'tis as well to make out a good pedigree for ourselves." " Your words," said Glover, " seem to imply a suspicion that I have not related the truth." " To be plain," answered the lieutenant, " your story sounded rather marvellous, and you felt no hesitation in volunteering a noble pedigree for your brother clerk. But all is not gold that glitters,

sir, and since you put the question to me, I shall even acknowledge my doubts of the correctness of your statement.” “ ‘Then, sir,’ said I, in great anger, “ ‘you insinuate that I am a liar, for my friend Mr. Glover, in telling you what he has done of my parentage, has told you nothing more than what he learnt from myself.’ ” “ ‘You may consider my doubts,’ replied the lieutenant, “ ‘in whatever light you please, and to reflect on whom you will.’ ” “ ‘Then,’ exclaimed I, without hesitation, “ ‘you are an impudent rascal!’ ” The lieutenant immediately started up from his chair to use violence towards me, but the company forcibly restrained him; and my friend got up and took me by the arm, observing, as we left the room, “ ‘that our addresses should be left with the landlord for Lieutenant Cope’s information.’ ”

We now paid our reckoning in the entrance chamber, where Glover wrote down our directions, which he left with Monsieur Rosa; and having done this, we proceeded into the street, where we canvassed over our late adventure, and my friend promised to be

my second, in the event of a challenge being the result of our quarrel.

While walking arm in arm together, on our way home, and engaged in earnest conversation, our attention was suddenly attracted by a shrill exclamation, proceeding from a lofty window over our heads, and looking up to see what was the matter, we both received, full in our faces, the contents of a large chamber implement of filth, which was discharged from the said window. As soon as we recovered breath, from the overpowering nature of its contents, we banged loudly at the door of the house to obtain redress, but no one came to it, so at last we were glad to stagger home to our billets; angry, wet, most offensively dirty, and in liquor.

CHAPTER VII.

Clinton goes to the Opera.—Some Characters there described.—The Quarrel adjusted.—Visits a Hell.—A sad Catastrophe.—Description of a Gambler at Rouge et Noir.

NEITHER the filthy pickle in which I returned home, nor my reflections upon the probable result of my quarrel with Lieutenant Cope, prevented my sleeping soundly all night; though, I suspect, I was indebted for this happiness to the quantity and quality of the wine I had imbibed. But be the cause whatever it may, I certainly never slept sounder in my life; and even at a late hour on the following morning I continued buried in profound sleep, until my landlord awoke me, by knocking loudly at my chamber door.

The good man came to invite me to breakfast, but the powerful effluvia which filled the room evidently forced him to curtail his usual number of bows, and to retire down stairs in great haste ; though he soon returned, bringing with him half a bottle of strong perfume, part of which he applied to his nose and handkerchief ere he ventured to approach my bed, to present the remainder to me, which he recommended to my immediate use. I smiled, and told him the nasty adventure of the preceding night, at which he laughed heartily, but assured me it was a common occurrence to strangers ; while those who knew the customs of the town always escaped such presents, by running into the middle of the street whenever they heard the cry of *aqua-vi*, which he cautioned me to be attentive to in future ; and, in short, he said I should act wisely by always walking in the middle of the street after dusk in the evening.

By the assistance of soap and water, aided by the grocer's perfume, I contrived to make myself tolerable sweet, ere I descended into the parlour to partake of my kind host's

breakfast; at which, besides himself, was his wife, a good sort of motherly woman, about forty years of age, and his daughter, a tolerable pretty girl of fifteen. They were all much amused at my adventure, and laughed heartily at my expense. My debauch of the preceding night had not injured my appetite, and I made an excellent breakfast, at which, for the first time in my life, I partook of a water melon. This meal over, I proceeded to Belem, where I met Glover, none the worse for the night's adventures. We were employed that day in the avocations of our department, and in the evening treated ourselves to the opera, which had been warmly extolled at our dinner party on the preceding day, and which really proved an enchanting spectacle to us. We were delighted with every part of it; the dancing, singing, and acting, giving us equal pleasure.

During the opera we entered into conversation with a young Portuguese gentleman who sat near us, and was a thorough master of the French language. He proved an amusing companion, telling us a vast number

of anecdotes concerning the chief singers and dancers, together with many adventures of the nobility and fashionables, as well foreigners as natives. "Observe that actor," said he, "he is called Signior Romero, and is the declared favorite of the Marchioness de R—, who lives in public with him. Listen to that enchanting singer, she refused fifty good offers to marry a paltry sailor, whom she soon afterwards forsook, and has since had fifty gallants. At present she intrigues with half the fashionable men in Lisbon, though her acknowledged supporter is Sir Godfrey Webb, a youthful English baronet, who, by the aid of gambling and women, has already nearly run through his property, and is to be seen every night at some of the hells, and the opera house. Look at that dancer," added the Portuguese, "she is supported by the old Count Noblé, who follows her like a shadow. It is said he carries a stiletto to stab her, should he detect her in an act of infidelity." Thus we were amused by this gentleman, who related anecdotes until the conclusion of the opera, when we parted,

after making an appointment to meet on the following evening, for the purpose of obtaining an introduction from him into a hell.

On my arrival at home, I found a note from Captain Blunt, who called on the part of Lieut. Cope, and not finding me at home, had appointed to call again at an early hour next morning. I must own I did not sleep very sound after this communication; my head run upon a duel, the idea of which gave me no satisfaction. However, I resolved to put on a good face, and summon all the courage I could muster, that I might get honorably through the quarrel; though, at bottom, I sincerely hoped there would be no fighting.

Next morning, Captain Blunt called according to agreement, when I referred him to Mr. Glover; and, after much explanation and altercation between them, the captain concluded, by saying, that Lieutenant Cope could not with propriety meet a commissariat clerk; besides, the whole business seemed to be nothing more than a drunken frolic, therefore he should propose that a mutual apology took place. Glover replied, that Lieutenant

Cope had been the aggressor, and that before he offended a gentleman he should look to the consequences; but if the affair was to be settled by apologies, he should insist on Mr. Cope making the first apology. This was at last agreed to; and we proceeded, the same day, to Monsieur Rosa's, where we met Lieutenant Cope, and in presence of several of the party who had been at the dinner on the preceding day, our apologies were made and accepted; after which we shook hands, and drank a bottle of wine together, though I plainly perceived that the reconciliation, on the side of Mr. Cope, was far from being cordial and sincere.

We left the *restaurateur's* to attend the appointment of our Portuguese opera acquaintance, who, according to promise, introduced us to a professed gambling-house, very appropriately denominated hell; for all the violent passions which afflict mankind, and create hellish torments to the bosom, reigned in full plenitude of power in this Satanic palace.

But, alas, my reflections were not of this nature when I first entered the brilliant play

rooms. My sight was then gratified by their magnificence, and my senses bewildered by the profusion of gold and silver coins that glittered on the tables. I fancied myself in the mansion of a Cræsus, while, from the apparently careless manner in which gold and silver coins were paid away and received, they seemed to be valued as little as pebbles. The rooms were full of company, and every chair was occupied at the various tables by punters, while others stood behind those who were seated, all alike eager to play. Many British officers of the army and navy were present, as were also captains of trading ships, commissaries, doctors, and other attendants upon the army. In short, the rooms were crowded to excess, and most intolerably hot. The young baronet, of whom the Portuguese had made mention, was playing very high stakes, as were several other English officers, but the majority of the punters were playing for small stakes.

I could not resist the temptation to try my luck at the *rouge et noir* table. I had

twenty dollars in my pocket, and commenced by playing a single dollar; and Fortune, as she usually does with beginners, favored me, till I made my capital into more than forty dollars. Glover also tried his luck, and soon doubled his money. Thus matters went on pleasantly for some time, and the Portuguese gentleman, observing that he had forgotten his purse, occasionally borrowed a dollar or two, until each of us had lent him about two pounds of English money. All which, after playing for some time with alternate success, he told us he had lost.

At last, for the spirit of gaming is not to be allayed, Glover and I, who had put up our money, sat down to play again, to make up the sums we had lent; and finally concluded the evening's amusement by losing every shilling we possessed, and returned home dispirited and disgusted. Yet such was the infatuation which possessed us both, that we continued to frequent this nocturnal scene of iniquity for several successive nights, until we had not only lost every shilling we were mas-

less of, but had pledged our watches at the *mont de piété*, and lost the money for which they were pawned.

It is now we had full leisure to observe the miserable consequences attending this destructive game. It causes rage and despair. It drives men to commit every species of guilt; to betray trust and confidence; to rob—ah, and to murder! Often have unfortunate punters dashed their heads against the walls of the elegant *rouge* rooms, broke the rich furniture and glasses, and insulted strangers for merely looking at them. It is here that men lose all they can collect, even to the last shilling, and finally commit robbery or suicide.

A melancholy event of this last description fortunately cured me of the infatuation for play. The young Portuguese with whom we became acquainted at the opera, and who had introduced us at this hell, had long been a votary to this game. He had lost every thing he possessed, and borrowed and obtained trust as long as his credit was good, until not able to procure the means of existence any longer, quite pennyless, and unceasingly harassed by

creditors, he, with a borrowed pistol (which he suddenly drew from beneath his waistcoat), blew out his brains in the middle of the gambling room, which at the time was full of company, and, amongst others, Glover and I witnessed the horrid spectacle.

I shall never forget the effect produced upon me by this shocking sight, but from that night I never entered a gambling-house more, and, however long I may live, I am convinced I never shall. I returned home with a mind replete with horror, and, in place of retiring to bed, spent the night in meditation, and wrote, as a caution to other young men, the following description of a gambler at *rouge et noir*.—"It is heart-rending to observe the progress of the unfortunate votaries to this destructive game, as they gradually sink into the various stages of misery and want. A young man of fortune is first seen playing high stakes, with hundreds, ah, even thousands of pounds piled before him. He has alternate success, until losses throw him off his guard; desperation then seizes him, and he loses all. The following day he appears with

a new capital, and is again unsuccessful. Thus he goes on, day after day, till his resources are exhausted, all his best clothes pawned, his credit gone, and his character blasted. He can now only play occasionally, and when he does play, his stake is half-a-crown, or less; as the gambling-house he frequents may admit.

His appearance, which was at first fashionable and gay, and his clothes new and well made, are now sadly changed. He is haggard and pale, pining under distress and care; has passed the preceding night at the *rouge* table, and afterwards lingered time away at a hell for hazard, until the broad glare of day dispersed the players, from amongst whom, and the waiters at the tables, he vainly attempted to borrow a single shilling. Poor fellow! his fine spirit is gone, he shuns the companions of his brighter days. He is himself avoided, and styled a gamester or black-leg. Look at him! Where is the man of fashion? This cannot be him. This young man has a rusty hat and thread-bare coat on; he wears patched boots and dirty linen; his pantaloons are in holes, and he is detected sneaking through lanes

and courts to avoid his creditors, for he owes money to every person who would trust him.

Such is the career of an unsuccessful gambler ; one of a miserable race of men, usually doomed to terminate their days in jail, by suicide, or on a gibbet !

CHAPTER VIII.

Clinton is distressed.—Receives Orders to proceed to Coimbra.—Captain Grove relieves him.—Is engaged in a strange Adventure.

My feelings were now most painfully acute ; I had scarcely been a month from home, and yet I had twice lost all I possessed, while my father had both distressed himself and inconvenienced his family by the expenses of fitting me out and replacing my first loss. To apply to him again under these circumstances was totally out of the question, especially as I had lost my money in an infamous manner at a public gaming-house. In a word, I really think I should sooner have perished than submitted to apply to him ; but I had no reason to

fear dying for want, as, at the worst, my rations would afford me sufficient nourishment.

As long as a gamester continues in the daily habit of playing, he is enlivened by hope ; and although he may come home at night pennyless, and with a distracted mind, yet, provided he musters a stake or two, he returns to the scene of ruin on the following day ; and even if without money, still he directs his steps to the gaming-house, in the hope of borrowing a trifle from some more fortunate player. But I had no delusive hope of this kind either to cheer or mislead me. I had determined never to enter a gambling-house again, nor to hazard any material sum upon any game of chance, therefore with me the dye seemed fixed. I was poor and distressed, and likely to remain so for some time, as I could see no early chance of being extricated from my poverty, having no monied friend to assist me. From economy alone I could expect relief, and that relief would be slow in coming.

Glover's situation was somewhat similar to mine ; he, like me, was without money ; but

he had this advantage, his father was wealthy, and would honor his bill for a reasonable sum, though hitherto he had failed in his endeavours to get a bill negociated.

Matters continued in this way with us for some days, during which we lived together upon our rations, while neither possessed a coin of any kind, nor had either of us a dollar of pay to receive for more than a fortnight ; and, to add to our misery in this distress, we received orders to proceed at two days' notice to Coimbra, with a supply of commissariat stores destined for the use of the army.

Fortunately, on the evening of the day we received the order for marching, that excellent man, Captain Grove, called upon me while I was sitting with Glover, contemplating our unpleasant situation, with an empty ration wine bottle before us. He had heard something of my quarrel with Lieutenant Cope, and now enquired into the particulars, which evidently did not benefit the lieutenant in his estimation, though he made no remark at the time. The captain had also heard of our having been frequently seen at

the gaming table, and of the dreadful suicide of the Portuguese gentleman, which tempted us to relate to him the folly we had been guilty of at the gambling-house, the distress we were consequently suffering under, and the determination we had formed of never more entering a place of that kind.

He congratulated us upon the resolution we had made, observing, we must never swerve from it, or we should be lost men; for, by frequenting houses of play, we should soon become incurable gamblers, whose words would be unworthy of credit; “for a professed gamester’s promise, or even his oath,” added the captain, “is not worth a straw. But,” continued this worthy man, “that my words may not meet the usual fate of advice, which is in general despised or forgotten because the adviser renders no other service, I must put you in a way to prepare for the march up the country. If I was a single man,” continued he, “I should propose lending what spare money I have by me, till it might suit your convenience to repay it; but being a married man, with a family who require all

the supplies I can remit home, I must content myself with proposing to cash Mr. Glover's bill upon his father for fifty guineas, which, provided Mr. G. accommodates his friend, as I doubt not but he will do, will enable you both to proceed on the march to the army with a decent outfit, and some few comforts."

We thanked the captain for this unsolicited friendly offer, which was truly liberal, and Glover lost no time in drawing the bill, which was immediately cashed, and he generously lent me twenty pounds of the money.

This happy relief from embarrassments completely eased our minds, and afforded us sincere pleasure. The next morning we set to work in preparing for the approaching campaign. We redeemed our watches, and each bought a tolerable good horse, with bridle and saddle, together with various other things necessary to our comforts. It is true, we ought to have procured a mule or ass each for our luggage, but we could not spare the money; besides, we justly calculated upon the advantages of being attached to the commissariat department, which, amongst other con

venient things, almost always affords the means of conveyance for private luggage at the public expense

Contrary to the customary conduct of the natives of Lisbon on similar occasions, my good landlord and his family seemed concerned at my approaching departure, and, by invitation, Glover and I dined with them on the day preceding our march, when our conviviality was interrupted by the following circumstance.

Glover, who was gaily inclined towards the fair sex, and was a handsome young fellow to boot, had formed an intimacy with the celebrated Signiora Murinelle ; in short, it is not to be disguised that he carried on a regular intrigue with this highly admired opera dancer ; and while we were enjoying ourselves with the grocer's family, a letter was brought to my friend, which he handed me to read, and which bore the signiora's signature. It contained an earnest request for Glover to attend its bearer immediately, accompanied by some trusty friend, and both to be armed, as she had something of consequence to impart regarding his safety.

Thus we felt compelled to quit this worthy

party in a hasty manner, alleging, as an excuse to them, that military business called us away. Having put on our swords, we followed the lady's messenger in silence, until he came to a large mansion, into which he conducted us; and, leaving me in a magnificent apartment, escorted my companion to a different part of the house.

I waited alone in considerable suspense for upwards of half an hour, when Glover relieved my anxiety by entering the room, and, without any explanation, taking my arm, led me into the street, when he said he had something of moment to communicate, and we had best adjourn to some private walk, where he might tell it without being overheard or observed.

Having got to a retired part of the Place d'Inquisition, Glover told me he had been favored with an interview by the signiora, while I waited in the saloon. That she told him she had sent for us to that house, which belonged to a friend of her's, that our meeting might not be known; "for," added she, "the jealous old fool has found out our intimacy; or, more

properly speaking, he has discovered that I have had various meetings with some youthful cavalier ; and having, through some channel or other, got intimation that I purpose receiving a visit from the favorite person to night, the old dotard has resolved upon revenge ; not by stabbing me, as he formerly threatened, but by assassinating my admirer ; and, in hopes of executing this honorable intention, the old beau is now preparing to hide himself in a closet at my house, where he shall be well chastised, my dear fellow, by you ; and I am most egregiously mistaken if the wholesome discipline does not cure him of this jealous humour. But," resumed the fair lady, perceiving I was surprised at her discourse, "it is proper I should explain to you by what methods we are to punish my superannuated spark, who I well know to be a rank coward, although he would not scruple at an assassination, because he knows that his rank and influence would clear him from any dangerous consequences resulting from it. It is intimated that my admirer will be with me at ten o'clock, therefore the count will hide himself

in a closet close to the entrance door of my chamber before that hour, and a hired assassin is at the same time to be hid in the closet opposite to him. The old fool has not the courage to commit a murder, therefore the bravo is hired to perform the sanguinary act; after which, the dotard's plan is to rush into my chamber, with the bloody dagger in his hand, for the purpose of holding it to my bosom and threatening my life. Now," continued the fair signiora, "my dear fellow, we must both disappoint and punish the old dotard; for which purpose, I shall take care that my trusty gover-nante preesnts a powerful sleeping draught, in the shape of a cordial, to the bravo, who will be disguised as one of the count's servants; and also that she despatches all my servants upon messages to different distant places, where they shall be detained for several hours; besides, to prevent even the possibility of accident, the bravo shall be safely locked in the closet.

As soon as every thing is ready, I will make a sign to you from the chamber window opposite to which you must be waiting, somewhat before ten o'clock; and as soon as the

sign is made the front door shall be opened, to admit your friend and you, and masks and pistols shall be ready for you both, together with a sack. When you are disguised, the governante shall show you the closet, where you must rush on the old wretch, who will be crouched in it like a hare in its form ; and then, with frightful imprecations, force him into the sack, which tie tightly over him with a cord you will find ready at hand. This done, the governante will open the street door, and you must carry the sack and its contents, and deposit them upon the heap of dirt on the opposite side of the street, under the convent wall, where you will leave the old fellow to cool, and I shall give you no futher trouble ; for it shall be my office to release him from purgatory, when, by the blessed Santa Maria, I shall richly merit his warmest thanks."

"Though I did not much relish the business," added Glover, "yet the novelty of the proposed adventure made me laugh ; while the desire of pleasing the fair signiora, and taking some revenge on the old gallant for

his diabolical intentions towards me, decided me in acceding to her wishes, and I signified my compliance, and sealed the promise with a kiss on her rosy lips. Now," concluded he, "it rests with you, Clinton, to do exactly as you please; for though your assistance would be most acceptable in this adventure, yet, if you feel the smallest disinclination to the affair, say so at once, and I will undertake it alone; for my word is pledged to the lady, and it shall not be my fault if the business is not achieved."

"My dear friend," replied I, "can you possibly doubt my willingness to join you in this or any other adventure. I can only say, I am glad the opportunity offers, as it gives me pleasure to render you a service, but I wish it was of a more serious nature, for what you propose promises more merriment than danger or trouble."

"It is just as I expected," answered Glover, "I knew you would join me; and I think that the recollection of the adventure we are about to perform will often serve us to laugh over, should we live to see riper years;

but," added he, "it is now only nine o'clock, let's away to the nearest coffee-house to partake of a bottle, which may aid our courage against the appointed hour."

We were punctual to the time and place, but waited nearly an hour before the preconcerted signal was made, during which suspense I confess that my zeal for the adventure materially cooled, and I felt various unpleasant reflections on the probability of our becoming the dupes of a more designing person, and perhaps being assassinated. But although these feelings gained upon me, I was ashamed to acknowledge the state of my thoughts.

At length the looked-for signal was made, and I had no more spare time for contemplation. The door was opened, and we were masked, armed with pistols, and furnished with a sack; after which we proceeded up stairs, guided by the old governante, who shewed us the closet door, and then retired out of sight until we had seized the count, who was frightfully alarmed, and most earnestly implored for mercy on his knees; but, regardless

of his cries, we forced him into the filthy sack, and tied it tightly up, when the signiora and her governante appeared, and, in disguised voices, most vehemently affirmed, that he should be murdered directly, and his body thrown into the Tagus, if he dared make further noise while he remained in confinement.

These threats effectually silenced the count, and Glover and I carried the load between us, and threw it upon the dung-heap already mentioned, while the old governante followed with a large pail of slush, which she deliberately poured over the sack.

I should observe, that while this ceremony took place, we heard nothing of the fellow hid in the closet; but whether he was kept silent by the sleeping dose, his fears, or from being locked up, we did not trouble ourselves to ascertain. As soon as the business was completed, we returned for a moment to the house, but entered no further than the passage, where the signiora put a beautiful diamond ring upon one of Glover's fingers, and a handsome topaz ring upon mine, and told us she should soon terminate the adventure. by extricating the old fool from the

sack; but, that as she purposed laying the whole affair to thieves, she cautioned us to keep it a profound secret. Then requesting us to visit her when we returned to Lisbon, she, without more ceremony, kissed Glover, bid us *bonas notes*, and shut the door.

After quitting the signiora curiosity induced us to cross the street, to take a farewell look at the bag, from which we saw at least half a dozen ravenous dogs (with which the streets of Lisbon always abound) busily employed in licking the grease, regardless of the groans and lamentations issuing from the sack.

Our pity was moved for the sufferings of the old nobleman, but we could not interfere in the business; though we remained hid behind a corner, at a safe distance, till we witnessed the termination of his misery. He was left in this place of confinement nearly an hour; when the servants, having returned home, numerous lights were carried to the dunghill, and amongst the crowd of people was the fair signiora, who shrieked and lamented in a loud voice, while the servants conveyed the count into her superb mansion.

CHAPTER IX.

Clinton arrives at Coimbra.—His Terror on perusing a Proclamation.—He frequents Coffee-houses, and falls in love with a Nun.

To use an Irishism, we commenced our march by water; that is to say, the first day's journey was performed by water-carriage up the Tagus. The stores, over which we had to do duty, had been disembarked from the ships, and put into flat bottomed boats, and we started in the morning with the tide, as it commenced flowing up the river. We made a remarkable quick passage to Villa Franca, a distance of eight leagues; nor may it be amiss to observe here, that the Tagus is one of the most rapid flowing rivers in Europe, its currents making it necessary to have the ships

cables payed over with ropes, to save them from being cut asunder.

We were employed two whole days in disembarking the stores, and loading them upon vehicles, ere we commenced our march. The horrid creaking of the bullock-carts, whose wheels are never greased, while the carts are constructed so as to make as much noise as possible, the drivers imagining that the screeching sound is pleasing music to the beasts, and assists to urge them forward; the constant exclamations of the drivers, such as *anda mula*, and other familiar Portuguese epithets; the luggage tumbling off the carts at every eminence, or the wheels breaking in the deep ruts; the frightful sores upon the backs of the horses, mules, and asses, and the equally disgusting ones on the shoulders of the bullocks; the girths breaking; the luggage getting wet, by fording brooks and small rivers, and sometimes tumbling in the water; the frequent want of shoes for the horses and mules; the baggage animals breaking loose, for they merely travel tied head and tail together; the necessity of con-

stantly watching the muleteers, who strive to rob the stores, and desert ; the risk of having the skins of wine tapped, or the provisions purloined ; and, after all these harrassing plagues and numerous other perplexities, when the day's march is over the difficulty of procuring billets and accommodations for the animals and stores ; all these things combine to make a march of baggage in this country truly difficult and distressing.

On our journey to Coimbra, I visited the celebrated and beautiful convent of Battailia, which stands a lasting evidence of the weakness and superstition of John the Second, one of the Portuguese monarchs, who erected this building on the spot where he gained a victory over the Moors, to fulfil a vow which he had previously made. Many of the kings and queens lie buried here, who are represented upon their monuments as laying hand in hand together. The swords and battle-axes of John I. and II. are also preserved here, and shown to strangers.

I found considerable difficulty in suiting myself with a billet in the ancient collegiate

city of Coimbra, which was so thronged with troops, medical and wounded officers, staff gentlemen of all kinds, purveyors of hospitals, commissaries, and other attendants on the army, that a poor commissariat clerk was thought nothing of, but might deem himself well off if he found any miserable hovel to lay his head in at night. However, at length I succeeded in procuring a paltry room at a wine-house in the suburbs of the town, to which Glover, who was still worse billeted than I, agreed to come daily to mess with me.

Here we learnt the sequel of our adventure at Lisbon, by means of a proclamation which lay upon the public table, and which I took up to read to Glover. It stated, that the house of Signiora Murinelle had been broken into by robbers, who, after a brave resistance on his part, had overpowered the gallant Count Noblé, whom the villains most inhumanly forced into a sack, while he lay in a state of insensibility from his wounds and bruises; and that after tying him in the sack they rifled the house of the signiora's valuable jewellery and plate, when they carried away the count,

as supposed, with the intention of throwing him into the Tagus, but, fortunately being disturbed by people in the street, they threw the sack, containing the count, upon a dunghill, not far from the signiora's house, where the unfortunate nobleman lay, almost smothered, for nearly an hour, when his cries were heard by one of the signiora's servants, and his excellency was conveyed to this lady's mansion in a state of complete insensibility.

The proclamation further stated, that one of the robbers had been taken in a closet of the signiora's house, leading to her bed-chamber, and had been safely lodged in prison ; and it offered a large reward for the apprehension of the rest of the gang, or for any individual of them a proportionate sum.

It is impossible to conceive my surprise while perusing this article. Sometimes I paused to look at Glover, who appeared lost in astonishment ; then I read on, and he was all attention, at last, having got to the conclusion, and remained mute for a short time, I said to Glover, who had taken up another paper, " Well, friend, what do you think of the

poor signiora ? dear lady, her sufferings must have been great indeed." "Damn the B—" answered he, "she has completely duped us." "I admire your assertion," replied I, "but put the first person, if you please, and you may be right; for though you became her dupe, that was not my case." "The devil you were not," said Glover, "well then, as you think so, I wish you joy of the escape." "What do you mean, Glover;" I exclaimed "the signiora was your acquaintance; I never knew her before the adventure was achieved, and in that I merely performed a part to oblige my friend."

During the latter part of this dialogue, I perceived Glover slip the signiora's ring off his finger into his pocket, and, on my concluding the last sentence, he thrust another paper into my hand, and pointing to this new proclamation, said, "Read, Clinton, and tell me whether I'm the only dupe? and how you feel on the occasion." While I read this proclamation, I involuntary did as Glover had done; that is, I slipped the topaz ring off my finger, and put it quietly into my waistcoat pocket; while, probably, it was fortunate for

us both that no third person was in the room when these transactions occurred, or we might have been apprehended for robbers, as this proclamation offered an additional reward of five hundred *crusado novas* for the apprehension of either of the thieves concerned in robbing Signiora Murinelle; and, moreover, gave a minute description of the various articles of plate and jewellery stolen from the signiora's house; in which list were especially enumerated the topaz and diamond rings given us by this fair courtesan, as a remuneration for our services and a mark of her regard.

These proclamations filled our minds with terror, as we saw by them that we had become the thorough dupes of a most designing woman, who would stick at nothing to obtain her ends; and who, doubtless, had invented the story of the robbery and the design of drowning the count to enrich herself at his expense, and also secure that nobleman's affections by her assumed grief at his affliction. Besides, we had every reason to fear she would sacrifice us, should we accidentally be discovered as the people who put the count

in the sack, or should we be apprehended on account of having the rings in our possession ; which latter circumstance might readily occur if we were seen wearing them.

We were also much puzzled, and formed innumerable conjectures, as to what line of conduct Count Noblé would pursue respecting the assassin he had employed to murder Glover, and who, beyond doubt, was the person apprehended in the closet, and alluded to in the proclamation as the thief who had been taken and secured in jail. We considered, that should this man be tried, he would declare the whole truth on his trial ; and, provided the count acknowledged the correctness of his story, as in justice he ought to do to save the fellow's life, that he would then be despised himself for shameful cowardice and braggadocio conduct. But when we reasoned thus, we little knew the state of the police at Lisbon, nor the vast power such a wealthy nobleman as Count Noblé possessed of swaying it to his private views.

The whole affair gave us much uneasiness, particularly as it became the subject of general

conversation at Coimbra ; yet the proclamations had the good effect of putting us on our guard, so that we became extremely cautious in our language ; nor did I ever hear Glover again mention his acquaintance with the fair signiora while I remained in the Peninsula. As to the rings, we secured them in leather, and packed them carefully away, with the determination of never exposing them to the day-light, until we were far removed from this land of assassins.

When leisure permitted, we occasionally visited the museum and public library ; though we oftener sauntered into some coffee-house or other, where the heterogeneous assemblage of military officers, of every denomination, and of various nations, formed an amusing contrast to the pedantic students of this celebrated university, who also frequented these places of recreation in considerable numbers.

These students, like the students of all countries, are fond of displaying their knowledge in disputation, and daily seek opportunities of entering into controversies for this

purpose ; but while our army gentlemen were at Coimbra, they were usually unfortunate in their selection of antagonists ; for military men are rarely good classic scholars, while, on the other hand, students seldom know much of the world. Thus, what little advantage the scholar might gain by his Greek or Latin, was known only to his few learned friends ; while the wit of his opponent, when exercised at the student's expense, was enjoyed by all the rest of the party. And to render these controversies still more distressing to the scholars, they were generally terminated by some violent and ignorant military officer interrupting the argument, by loudly vociferating that all Latin, Hebrew, and Greek books were balderdash and nonsense, fit only to be damned with their authors ; or else by some doctor, surgeon, chaplain, north of England gentleman, or other person, indifferently instructed in Latin, undertaking to dispute with the student ; and the company, for further sport, deciding the arguments in his favour.

In these and similar harmless amusements, we passed the greater portion of our spare

time ; though, in common gratitude, I ought not to neglect mentioning, that both Glover and I made frequent visits to the hospitable convent of Santa Clara, which is beautifully situated on a hill, at a short distance from the town.

This convent is reputed to be rich, and its inmates are certainly very hospitable, for whenever a stranger appears at the grating he is invited by the abbess, or one of the nuns, to partake of refreshments ; and, provided the person is of decent appearance and accepts the offer, the most exquisite wine, delicious fruits, and sweet cakes, made by the fair nuns, are immediately turned round to him in the box ; while for a beggar, or other common person, a more substantial food and homelier wine make their appearance.

Having already acknowledged that my friend and I made frequent visits to this hospitable convent, it remains only for me further to confess that I made them rather too often for my peace of mind, as the black eyes, pretty face, and winning speech of sister Martha, the

loveliest of all the nuns who solicited my friendship, and always appeared at the grating to welcome my arrival, soon stole my heart away from the noble feelings of friendship to the softer and sweeter ones of love.

CHAPTER X.

Clinton soliloquises upon Love.—Is sent with a Convoy to join the Army.—Arrives at Coria.—Retrogrades, and crosses the Tagus.

I CONFESS that I became warmly attached to sister Martha ; that fair girl's charms and fascinating manners stole upon me imperceptibly ; and it was through iron gratings Cupid first pointed his darts at me. Curiosity led me to the convent ; pity and admiration caused me to continue my visits ; and, last of all, love, that powerful loadstone, daily attracted me to this enchanting spot. Martha and I loved each other most sincerely. But, alas ! we could never gratify the tender passion ; nor did we ever see each other, except through the grated

bars,—those cursed bars, that incarcerated the fairest of the female sex.

We prayed for no sweeter bliss than to pass our lives together; and, in our whispering interviews, we framed a thousand idle schemes, all tending to the same end—the escape of my beloved nun; but these were pleasingly delusive dreams; and, alas! the day I left Coimbra was the last on which I saw the fair maid.

Here let me pause, to enquire what extraordinary crimes the most culpable of the female sex can ever have committed, that such prisons as the convent of Santa Clara, should have been established for the punishment of their children. In other convents, females take the veil after arriving at years of discretion, and ostensibly by their own free choice; while the more unfortunate nuns of Santa Clara are incarcerated in their earliest infancy, and obliged to remain all their lives in this loathsome convent. Alas! poor victims of priestcraft,—parental dislike, or family pride, you are all basely sacrificed; and, if mortals

are to reverence the memory of martyrs, let Santa Clara's departed nuns be revered as the purest of angels.

Fair maidens! 'tis generally the worldly wealth to which your births entitle you, which brings you to this unnatural fate; and such was poor Martha's case. Her parents were rich and noble, yet, to aggrandize their sons, they immolated this lovely female in a convent, where her beauty, fine talents, and amiable character, were lost to the world.

But I think I hear the reader cry, "Clinton's an enthusiast in love;" therefore, after asking the reader's pardon for this digression, I will proceed with my narrative.

After being detained about a fortnight at Coimbra, Glover and I were ordered away to accompany a convoy of stores, destined for the army in Spain. These stores were under the charge of a deputy commissary-general, who had several assistants and many clerks under his orders. We left Coimbra before day-light on the morning after the order arrived, and sustained a severe march of some days, under the burning sun of the latter end

of the hot month of July ; following the steps of the British army, who were in pursuit of a much greater force of French, under King Joseph Bonaparte

We rarely halted at night in the towns or villages, but generally bivouacked, often on the open plain, though sometimes under the shelter of the spreading cork tree, yet more frequently under that of the willow-like-looking olive. At length we came to the handsome town of Coria, where we passed a night in billets, and so laced ourselves for the previous nights of exposure and fatigue. But when, upon the point of advancing next morning, on our route to Placentia, to our extreme consternation, it was notified, that the French Marshal Soult, was already in possession of that town; and consequently in the rear of the British army.

The fact was, the commander of the English forces (as before observed) had marched after the main body of the French, leaving a Portuguese force to guard the pass over the mountains, on our left of Placentia, by which passage alone the French could

have got in his rear. But whether his orders had been badly obeyed, or the Portuguese force was not sufficiently strong to oppose the marshal with effect, is not for an unenlightened commissary to say, but he succeeded in marching over the pass in question, thereby getting into the rear of our army, and consequently in cutting off several considerable reinforcements of troops that were advancing to join it; as well as commissariat and medicinal stores, of which the army stood in great need.

In consequence of this movement of the enemy, it became necessary for us to retrograde with the utmost speed, which we did, covered by a fine brigade, fresh from England, which, like ourselves, had been cut off from joining the army. Fortunately, the French marshal made no movement after us, and what is still more incredible, he neglected the opportunity of advancing and possessing himself of the bridge of Acobisco, over which the British general retired his forces some days after to take up a defensive position on the opposite side of the Tagus.

Still, however, the French marshal gained

considerably by his advance to Placentia. He deprived the British general of the advantages which ought to have followed the hard-fought battle of Talavera, where he had gained a victory, perhaps unmatched by any other exploit of the brave army he led.

On this ever-memorable field, forty-five thousand French were beaten by far less than half that number of English; nor must it be forgotten, that France was then in the plenitude of her gigantic power. Her immense armies had met with no reverse of fortune, Her emperor reigned over, or influenced, almost every power in Europe. Here it was he received his first check. Here his brother was disgracefully beaten. However, it must be acknowledged that the Spaniards occupied a great portion of the lines at Talavera; but that they had little or nothing to do with the fight is proved by the returns of killed and wounded.

This brilliant victory threatened to be attended with worse consequences to the British than a defeat would have been. In the latter case the army from necessity must have retired across the bridge of Acobisco, while in

the present, the chances were that the British would have pursued the beaten foe, which had they done, the whole of their army must have capitulated or been dispersed. It would in this case have been placed between two French armies, each stronger than itself, and could have received no reinforcements or supplies, while the enemy would have received daily an increase to his force, and an abundant supply. In short, every well-informed impartial person must confess, that the situation of the British army would have been desperately hopeless, had its commander either advanced further, or delayed retreating across the Tagus.

The British general acted with decision. He had scarcely achieved the hard-earned victory at Talavera, when he heard Marshal Soult was in his rear. He lost no time in hesitation, but immediately retired, and obtained possession of the bridge of Acobisco, which he conveyed his effective army, cannon and baggage over. The sick and wounded in the hospital at Talavera were, from necessity, left to their fate; but the army of

Joseph Bonaparte treated them with becoming attention.

The convoy to which I was attached retired to the frontier of Portugal, where it remained some days, when orders came for us to cross the Tagus, and advance to the main army. We passed the river in safety, and after a few days of harrassing marches, under a broiling sun, succeeded in our object. But the supplies we conveyed proved very inadequate to the wants of the allied troops, and were consumed almost as soon as received, while the army remained distressed for provisions; for it was stationed in a poor country, which had been completely drained by the enemy.

The hardships and privations which the soldiers underwent in the neighbourhood of Roman Guarda are scarcely to be credited, while, from the kind of food served out to them as rations, they appropriately nick-named the place Dough-boy Hill. The army for a considerable time had no other rations than a small quantity of gritty flour; which, when baked in cakes (the only way of cooking it), required grind-

ing between the teeth; and the only addition to be obtained to this disagreeable food, was the tough and skinny flesh of half-starved goats, without even salt to flavour it.

In this trying situation, the army remained upwards of six weeks, though unmolested by the enemy; yet the privations the men suffered, added to the burning sun and night dews, to which they were exposed, laid the seeds of cruel fevers and agues, which soon afterwards broke out amongst us, and carried off many a gallant fellow,

After delivering the stores, most of the commissariat that escorted them were ordered back into Portugal, and I and my friend Glover amongst the number, which was considered a happy escape from a place where even the commissariat department ran the risk of being starved.

We returned into Portugal on the south side of the Tagus, passing through the beautiful town of Valencia d'Alcantara, and entering Portugal at a village, near the town of Castello de Vide.

The only act of civility and kindness I

perienced during this short campaign, was from the old butler of a noble Spanish family at Valentia d'Alcantara, who seeing me seated in the market place, apparently weary and distressed, took me home to his master's mansion, where he nourished me with good food, cheered me with excellent wine, and offered me a down bed to repose upon; but this I could not accept, having orders from the senior commissary to remain during the night in a field of olives with the stores.

I never name this town, but I think of the good butler, that worthy Samaritan, who refused bribe or reward; and was induced to feed and comfort me, solely by the warm feelings of his benevolent heart. I have since then dined with princes and other great men, but this man's civility and kindness remains imprinted on my memory, while the dinners of the mighty are forgotten.

CHAPTER XI.

Clinton suffers from Excess.—Is attached to a Division of Portuguese Troops.—Forms an Intimacy with Assistant-Surgeon Saveall.—Character of a Partisan.

WE had cause to rejoice on the day we reached the frontiers of Portugal, for it was the first time we were enabled to purchase food since the time of our crossing the Tagus. I had almost become a victim to inordinate appetite, at the first wine-house I entered, not having sufficient prudence or resolution to restrain from eating and drinking too profusely, although the food was nothing more than new bread, and the beverage indifferent wine of Oporto. For two days after committing this excess, I was confined to my tent, in

considerable danger. The same happened to all those who freely indulged their voracious appetites; many of them died, while others were afflicted with lingering diseases; but those amongst us who partook moderately of nourishment, gradually recovered the full tone of the stomach, and felt no further inconvenience from their former privations.

I was not suffered to enjoy a state of repose, for in a few days I was ordered into Spain, with a small convoy of stores, destined for the troops under the command of a noted partisan. While attached to them, and away from my friend Glover, whom I left in Portugal, I formed an acquaintance with Assistant-surgeon Saveall, with whom I messed, and we resided together under his tent, with the use of which he accomodated me and, in return, I furnished him with a share of my supplies.

He was a pleasant merry fellow, and considered very skilful in his profession; but what was of more consequence to me than his medical talents, he was an excellent forager, which useful talent enabled us to live very snugly together. In fact, we contrived to

have a better mess, in a time of general distress, than almost any of the higher orders in the army; and my messmate richly deserved it, for he spared no exertions to provide for our table, but went in search of provisions whenever he had leisure; and such was his zeal, that I have seen him running down goats, for the purpose of robbing their kids of the little milk in the mother's udder. The distressed state of the army made thieves of the soldiers, who stole provisions from wherever they could be found; even from under their sleeping comrades heads, or from their pockets, when from any lucky chance, or from inability to consume his unpalatable ration, any one happened to have a little gritty flour in his possession.

This miserable condition of things necessarily caused much illness in the army; at a time to, when the medical men were without medicines, owing to the hospital having been lost at 'Talavera. I have often laughed at the ludicrous situation in which my mesmate was placed regarding the sick under his care, who were paraded every morning in front of

the tent where we resided. They formed a numerous body, while the surgeon had no other variety of drugs, than emetics and one description of pill, which he administered alternately; at least I judged so, by the following dialogues, which took place one morning when the sick where paraded, and which I overheard while I lay on my mattress.

Surgeon.—"Well, Jack Strong, how are you after the emetic of yesterday? you look much better than you did."

Soldier.—"Indeed, doctor I'm very bad; but it was a pill, your honour, that I took yesterday."

Surgeon.—"Ah, was it? then hospital serjeant, mind and give Jack Strong an emetic to-day! and now, Barney Sullivan," addressing another soldier, "how did the pills of yesterday operate?"

Barney.—"Ah, by the holy Jasus, doctor, and I was graivously sick for two hours and more, after I swallowed the emetic!"

In this sort of way, the assistant-surgeon addressed soldier after soldier, though unfortunately, in most cases, he forgot whether the

man had been prescribed a pill or an emetic on the preceding day, and, consequently, he substituted the emetic for the pill, and, *vice-versa*, the pill for the emetic, until the poor wretches, tired out with this treatment, preferred bearing their sufferings in silence to complaining, and getting uselessly drenched with physic.

But to do this gentleman justice, I must say, that he possessed a good heart and a noble spirit, which were fully evinced in his general conduct; and I always recollect, with peculiar pleasure, the following circumstance, which occurred one day when he was foraging for provisions. His servant and a couple more soldiers were with him, when, at a sudden turn in a wood, they surprised several followers of the army in possession of a mule, laden with delicious white bread, which the fellows had stolen. The doctor, without any hesitation, forcibly took the booty from the thieves, and, with a spirit worthy of himself, sent the whole of the bread as a present to the regimental hospital, and delivered up the mule for the public service; this was done to at

a time when we were most distressed for provisions, and had not tasted bread for many days.

It may not be amiss to mention here something of the desolation caused by the French army, wherever it marched in this ill-fated country. As far as I advanced from the frontier of Portugal towards Talavera, and afterwards, on the opposite side of the Tagus, I can bear ample testimony to the unnecessary waste and destruction that marked its progress. Many of the valuable olive trees, which constitute the chief wealth of numerous Spanish villages, had been evidently cut down, or otherwise destroyed, from sheer wantonness; for this tree affords too little timber to make it worth while to fell it for fuel, particularly in a country where large timber grows in abundance. Entire vineyards, rich crops of grain, beautiful gardens, and orange grounds, had also been destroyed; houses mutilated, burnt, or spoilt, and the furniture of every sort broken to pieces; libraries of old books taken from the convents, merely to burn or tear up; images and figures broken and defaced; choice old paintings

stabbed through with bayonets, cut with knives or swords, or daubed over with filth ; and, that the climax of cruelty and barbarity might be complete, horses and other beasts houghed, and left to perish by lingering starvation. All these, and various other sad vestiges of the march of a *Gallic* army, did I witness ; but the complaints of the poor Spaniards, of the murders, violations, and robberies, committed by these *heroes*, would far exceed my powers of description ; and therefore I shall not attempt to relate them.

Every person attached to the army felt heartily rejoiced when the troops broke up from the vile position they occupied, to retire into winter quarters in Portugal ; and the redoubtable military knight, under whose command I served, about this time returned home, incensed against the commander of the forces, because he was superior to himself in rank and talents ; and also that he might the better employ his abilities at intrigue, to obtain some adequate recompence for his astonishingly brilliant exploits ; for he was not

one of those modest characters, who under-rate their personal services, or lose any sort of recompence for the want of puffing themselves into notice.

But here I feel tempted to digress from the thread of my history, for the purpose of relating some particulars of the character and conduct of this selfish individual, as they were communicated to me by one of his own officers. "The chevalier," said this gentleman, "is the greatest of egotists; a perfect compound of vanity and ostentation. He is vain of his birth, his education, and his talents; forgetting that they render him the laughing-stock of the army, It is ludicrous to hear him boast of being perfectly disinterested, while every act of his life proves him quite the contrary. He prides himself upon several foreign orders he has received, and yet he affects to despise the potentates who granted him these honours. He talks loudly against monarchs, oppression, and power, and for the sacred rights of the people, while there can be no question, from his general

conduct, but that he would gladly receive a pension from the monarch, or the golden favours of the populace.

“It was only the other day,” added my informer, “when the battle of Talavera was fought, and the French forces all employed on that side of the Tagus, that we advanced boldly on towards Madrid, until, scenting the approach of an enemy, we retired in double quick time, without even gratifying the foe with a sight of our backs.”

CHAPTER XII.

Clinton is taken by Banditti. — Finds a Friend in their Leader. — His History.

ONE day, upon our march towards Portugal, I rode away from the column of troops, to obtain a better view of the country from a hill, apparently about half a league on our right flank; but though I found the distance greater than I expected, I fulfilled my intention of mounting to its summit, where, after having contemplated the prospect for some time, I began descending the hill for the purpose of rejoining the column.

I had got about half way down it, and was riding at a moderate pace through a beautiful cork wood, when I was suddenly surrounded by a banditti, consisting of five ferocious looking fellows, armed with tremendous large

swords, besides each of them having his broad belt ornamented with a brace of pistols and a dagger. They were habited in complete Spanish costume, and, although on foot, evidently were horsemen, being all booted and spurred. The large feathers in their hats, the handsome broad belts girted round their waists, their pistols and daggers, the athletic figures of the men, their martial jackets, their slashed breeches, their large boots, long spurs, and the flaming toledo's which waved from their brawny arms, all combined to give them a frightfully tremendous appearance.

Two of the ruffians seized my bridle, while the others dismounted me in as little time as it requires to relate it, and after taking my father's sword away, they, with threatening signs and imprecations, hurried me along with them to a distance of about half a mile, in a contrary direction to that where I purposed going, when they halted under a large spreading cork tree, near to an old ruin, and then without ceremony rifled my pockets of my watch and what money they contained ; after which they fastened my hands behind me, and

by signs made me sit down amongst them upon a bank under the shade of a tree.

I remained in this distressing situation for a considerable time, during which these men conversed together in the Spanish language and smoked their cigars, but I could make out little or nothing of what they said, and therefore had the more leisure to contemplate these ferocious characters and my own unpleasant situation.

At length the noise of horses' hoofs was heard fast approaching, and six more banditti soon made their appearance, mounted on the horses we had heard, and as completely armed as the other five men. They quickly dismounted and tied their horses to some adjacent stakes, when, to my extreme surprise, I observed, on their approaching to sit down by their comrades, that their leader was no other than Serjeant Read, of whom I have made mention in my voyage to Lisbon.

He appeared much surprised on recognising me, and, after hearing what his people had to say regarding my capture, approached and untied my arms, when he shook me hear-

tily by the hand, assuring me he felt much pleasure at our meeting, and that I need be under no apprehensions either for my liberty or property, which should both be restored before we parted. After warmly thanking him for this kindness, I could not avoid expressing astonishment at finding him at the head of the present society; on which he told me, that after partaking of refreshments, he would relate what had occurred to him since we parted. He now gave directions to his people in the Spanish tongue, who immediately spread abundance of good bread, meat, and fruits, upon the bank where we sat, when I fell-to eating with the banditti, and made an excellent repast, at which I quaffed my full share of delicious Oporto wine, drinking it from the mouths of the calabashes in which the men had conveyed it slung over their shoulders.

The whole party treated me with great kindness from the moment they discovered I was their captain's friend. They were extremely merry and jovial, seemingly in excellent temper with each other, and well

pleased with their leader, while they often laughed to excess as they related what appeared to me to be their exploits.

After finishing our meal, the captain asked me how I came to be alone in that neighbourhood? in what manner his people had behaved to me? and of what they had robbed me? and, having answered him these questions, he said he was glad to find his men had told him the truth as to their conduct, and what they had robbed me of. He then desired them to return my money and watch, which they did without the smallest hesitation. He now requested to know what had happened to me since we parted at Lisbon, and I related to him every particular I thought worth notice, excepting alone the adventure at Signiora Murinelle's, which, for obvious reasons, I was not disposed to communicate even to him.

Having heard my tale, and laughed at some of my adventures, he rose and gave particular orders to four of his party, whom he then despatched, mounted on tolerable good horses, brought from behind the ruins of the dilapi-

dated old building, and now, re-seating himself, he lighted a fresh cigar and called for another calabash of wine, ere he commenced the following narrative of his adventures since we parted from each other on board the brig off Lisbon.

“ Probably, Mr. Clinton,” said he, “ you may remember that when you left me in the *Hercules* I was attached to Captain Grove’s company, where I scarce need tell you I felt as happy as any regimental serjeant could, but in consequence of several promotions amongst the non-commissioned officers on our landing, a vacancy of pay-serjeant occurred in Captain Fullertrick’s, and as he had no non-commissioned officer belonging to his company whom he considered fit to entrust with the payment, he was induced to offer that situation to me, observing at the time, that Captain Grove had strongly recommended me as qualified for it.

“ Sensible that this opening might afford me an opportunity of pushing myself into somewhat more notice than I had hitherto been able to do, and perhaps prove a step towards

my rising higher in the regiment, and at the same time feeling grateful to Captain Grove for the interest he had so handsomely taken in my behalf, and desirous of showing myself worthy of this recommendation, in an evil hour I accepted the situation, and was that same day transferred into Captain Fullertrick's company, and placed in the troublesome and responsible office of its pay-serjeant.

I had a vast deal of trouble in completing the soldiers with the numerous articles required for the approaching campaign, and the company was a good deal in debt when this was done, though not more so than the other companies of the regiment; and as Capt. Fullertrick was rather short of money at the time, I accommodated him by laying out of twenty-five pounds of the debt, which sum I had by me of my own.

“Every thing went on pretty smoothly for some time after I was pay-serjeant, though it was plain there was much ill-will harboured against me by the remainder of the non-commissioned officers of the company, who were jealous of my having been brought

amongst them as the pay-serjeant; but in a regiment, Mr. Clinton," added Read, "there is little else than jealousy and vexation amidst all ranks, from the colonel down to the youngest drum-boy; though this mean passion mostly affects the officers, whose words and actions are generally influenced by party feelings and the grossest prejudices.

"You are doubtless aware that our regiment was sent forwards to join the army soon after we disembarked at Lisbon, and although we halted for some few days at various towns upon the route, yet at last we were hurried up to Talavera by forced marches, where it is well known we had the honor of performing our full share in the brilliant exploits of that hard-earned field of glory.

"It was my misfortune, towards the close of the engagement, to push forwards somewhat before my company, which then led the regiment and, in the eagerness of pursuit and the confusion caused by firing and other noises, I did not observe when it came to a halt, but continued following the flying enemy, until a party, perceiving I was unsupported,

wheeled about and surrounded me; while unfortunately I received, at the same time, a wound in my right arm, and was compelled to surrender myself as a prisoner.

“ The French treated me with great brutality, several of them giving me blows with the flat sides of their swords, and, on my remonstrating against such usage, one of the fellows put the muzzle of his musket to my head, and asked if I desired to be relieved from my misery; and although I turned the mouth of the piece with my hand, I verily think the wretch would have shot me dead, had not several of his comrades deterred him from doing so.

“ After we had crossed the Alberchi, they plundered me of my pack and its contents, amongst which, unfortunately, were the books of the company I paid; but that same night, after dark, I took advantage of the confusion their troops were in upon the retreat to effect my escape, and succeeded in reaching the Alberchi within an hour afterwards, at a place where its stream is deep though not wide, and here I crossed by swimming over the

river chiefly with my left arm, for the wound made my right both stiff and painful.

“ I lay hid under some brush-wood all that night, and on the following morning joined the British army, and was almost immediately afterwards sent by our regimental surgeon to the general hospital at Talavera, where my wound was dressed, and I enjoyed a few days' repose; but, on the third night after my escape, the English forces retired from Talavera, when instructions were given to such of the sick as were able to march, or provide themselves with conveyance, to proceed to the rear, and I was one of those who availed themselves of the opportunity.

“ For the first day or two after we got to this side of the Tagus, every thing was in a state of extreme confusion. No rations were served out, and where plenty of animal food might have been secured for the use of the troops, a scarcity almost immediately took place, owing to the want of proper discipline and management, perhaps unavoidable on such an occasion. In proof of which I may particularly specify, that on the day we crossed the Tagus,

our brigade fell in with an immense drove of hogs in a wood close to our encampment, and, instead of securing them for the general use of the army, every man of the brigade, who chose, was permitted to kill a hog; the consequence of which was, that the soldiers were seen running in every direction after these animals, armed with knives, bayonets, or swords; and every man who could catch one slaughtered it for his amusement, and probably cut off a small piece of the flesh for his use, leaving the carcase to become putrid, which a few hours, in that hot season, would make it; while, in two or three days, the entire army was in great distress, and its proudest chief would have been delighted to obtain a morsel of the kind of food thus wantonly wasted.

“ It was several days after we crossed the Tagus ere I felt the severe consequences attending the loss of the company's account books. The soldiers, when questioned, gave false statements. Almost every man represented himself to be a creditor, when it was notorious that nearly every individual of the

company was in debt; and, to add to my distress, when I applied to the captain for money, he desired me to produce the books, nor would he credit that I had lost them to the enemy.

“ ‘Things went on in this manner for several days, during which many of the men became outrageous for money, and my enemies amongst the non-commissioned officers silyly circulated numerous lies to my prejudice, which at length the captain believed, or rather feigning to believe, put me under confinement, and shortly afterwards brought me to a court-martial, before which I was tried on the charges ‘ of making away with the company’s books, and embezzling the company’s money.’

“ Any impartial person would suppose I should have been acquitted of these charges, but the contrary happened, for I could produce no evidence of my innocence, and my assertions went for nothing; while Captain Fullertrick’s testimony much injured me, when he asserted upon oath, that the debt of his company had been considerably diminished since we left Lisbon; besides, the non-

commissioned officers and soldiers were against me almost to a man. In short, such was the evidence, that I verily believe the members of the court-martial considered me a thorough impostor, who neither had been taken by the enemy nor lost the company's books ; and though Captain Grove stepped forward and gave me the best of characters, I was sentenced to be reduced to the situation of a private soldier, to receive two hundred lashes, and be put under stoppages until the deficiency in my accounts was made good.

“ This harsh sentence was read to me before the whole regiment, paraded in a square, with all the implements prepared for inflicting corporeal punishment ; and the commanding officer, after the adjutant had read the proceedings of the court-martial, said, that he approved of the sentence, and then pointed me out to the corps as a most worthless fellow, who had betrayed the confidence of his captain, whom he had robbed by the basest of contrivances. ‘ However,’ added he, ‘ he shall not escape any part of the punishment awarded for his crimes ; but as soon as the surgeon

reports his recovery from the wound he has some how or other contrived to get, he shall be brought to the halberds to receive the corporeal punishment to which he is justly sentenced. Having spoken thus, he ordered me to be conveyed to the hospital, and treated there as a prisoner.

The gross injustice of which I was the victim preyed heavily on my mind, and seeing no prospect of retrieving my character, or regaining my former rank in the regiment, but, on the contrary, that I was to be flogged like a vile criminal, and (should I live so long) that I must for years be placed under stoppages, to make good whatever sums the soldiers affirmed to be their due, as well as what Captain Fullertrick might fancy to be his, induced me to watch for an opportunity of deserting, that I might escape such unmerited disgrace and misery to commence a new career with brighter prospects.

“ This resolution was formed only a day or two before it was put in execution, for I was but slightly watched, there being several prisoners in the hospital tent, and only one

sentry to guard us. I escaped in the night, armed with a good sword and a rifle barrel piece, without any money, and with no other provision than a few biscuits. I travelled on the road towards Portugal until day-light, when I hid myself in a thicket, and at night resumed my journey, though not by the direct road. Early next morning, when on the point of entering a wood, where I purposed hiding for the day, I suddenly heard fire-arms and the clashing of swords not far off, and, ere I could gain cover, four men in the Spanish costume appeared on the open space of ground where I stood, retiring fighting against six or seven others, who pressed sorely upon them.

“ Without hesitating, or caring what might be the cause of this fight, I immediately set to work in assisting the weakest party, and taking a good aim with my rifle, killed one of their opponents, and then briskly attacked and slightly wounded another with my sword. The party I assisted now plucked up fresh courage, and we pressed upon our antagonists with great vigour and speedily drove them

from the field with a loss of two of their party killed, and a like number wounded, and left to our mercy, whom, by the by, my new friends would have despatched but for my intercession.

“ I believe,” Mr. Clinton, continued Read, “ that you know I formerly served with our army in this country, both under Sir John Moore, and in the brilliant campaign of Vímiera ; and upon those occasions it was that I obtained the knowledge of the Spanish language, which has since proved so useful to me.

“ The party I joined expressed the warmest gratitude for the services I had so opportunely rendered them ; and, after directing some peasants, whom we met, to take care of our wounded foes (which was done at my request), they conducted me to a retired part of the wood, where one of their comrades was in waiting with five horses tied to the trees ; on one of these they mounted me, and the remaining five men mounted on the other four. We travelled at a brisk pace to a retired old ruined castle about two leagues distant, into

which we entered, and joined a party of ten, who were regaling themselves within an old chamber.

“ I need not attempt to disguise that during our ride I ascertained I was associating with an organized banditti; but what was I to do? I had no friend, and was destitute of every thing; while it was a hundred chances to one that I should be taken, if I resumed my march. Thus situated, I thought it best to join the party with a good grace; and they, after learning what services I had rendered their comrades, were extremely pleased with me, and requested to know what business had brought me into that neighbourhood; upon which I candidly related my misfortunes and my desertion from the regiment; shortly after which, by mutual consent, they offered me the post of their captain, who had been killed on the preceding day in action with the same party against whom I had helped them, and who were police officers, with whom they had fought two days in succession, but who, according to the opinion of my party, will never venture to attack us again.

“I accepted of their offer, on condition that the whole party should strictly obey my orders, and that I should be free to leave them whenever I desired; and that same night every individual of them took an oath of obedience to me, and we swore a mutual vow of fidelity to each other,

“Thus it happened,” resumed Read, “that I became the leader of an organized banditti, of whom the greatest portion have filled respectable situations in society, till driven to adopt their present course of life, either from the vile invasion of the French and their rascally conduct, or through the bigotry and rancour of the Spanish priests.

“One of our party has been brought up a surgeon, and he took my wound under his care, which was at that time inflamed by the exertions I had made in the late fight. He also undertook the cure of two others of our party, who had been wounded on this occasion, and soon succeeded in perfectly curing us all.

“We live in harmony and mutual confidence together; are always ready to assist each

other, and share what we possess; nor are we to be considered so much in the light of a banditti, as a Guerilla party; for we certainly render greater services than injury to the country. We never rob or hurt the poor, or those whom we know to be patriotically inclined; and we pay the farmers for every article we receive from them. But, on the other hand, we shew no mercy to the French, or their partisans; neither do we spare the property of the priests, when we can get any thing belonging to that imposing tribe of impostors. In short, we have already become a terror to those factions in the neighbourhood who support priestcraft or the French, which occasioned the attacks made on our community just before I joined it.

“ We are rich in gold and silver, and possess abundance of good arms and horses; nor do I despair of our ultimately being known only as a Guerilla party, and quitting altogether the profession of a banditti; for to become a Guerilla in this country is the ready way to cover all former offences with oblivion.

“ The adventures of many of my companions

are extraordinary,—I may almost say incredible ; and, should we meet again, I may perhaps entertain you by the relation of them ; but, at present, business of importance calls me and my party to a place several leagues away, while, doubtless, you are anxious to rejoin your companions.

“ Had your prospects in life been blasted as mine have, I might invite you to become one of my party, but you are a very young man, have as yet seen little of the world, and remain unacquainted with the baseness of human nature ; besides, you have fair prospects and excellent parents, whom it is your duty to obey and strive to make happy by pursuing a steady course, for which reasons I decline making any such proposal ; but, on the contrary, recommend you to rejoin your division without delay, and I will myself put you in the direct road to do so.

“ If you choose to accept of money, as much as you please shall be at your disposal, and you will oblige me by taking it, as I shall thereby feel convinced of your confidence in my friendship ; but, remember, that whatever

happens, I rely on your keeping secret all that you know concerning me; unless, indeed, to Captain Grove, to whom you may relate it."

Having listened to poor Read's story with the greatest interest and attention, I thanked him for the kind offer of supplying me with money, but declined accepting any, assuring him I already possessed ample for all my purposes; and, with regard to my keeping his history a secret, I trusted he would not for one moment wrong me by supposing I could be rascal enough to betray his confidence. My horse was now returned to me, and the whole party mounted and escorted me about a league, when Read pointed out my road to a village where the troops were to halt that night, and gave me a written slip of paper to show to a party of five he had out in that direction, that they might permit me to pass unmolested should we fall in with each other.

After this, the whole party embraced me, and we mutually wished each other every sort of happiness and success; and while Read gave me his farewell shake of the hand,

he slipped a massy gold ring off his finger into my hand, which he requested me to wear for his sake.

I really felt painful sensations as I quitted these brave fellows, who wheeled their horses about and were out of sight in two minutes. When I had ridden half the distance to my destination, I met the other five men belonging to this party, who seized my horse by the bridle, and assuredly would have robbed me, had I not presented Read's passport, which having read, they politely wished me a *bonas dias*, and proceeded on their way. Without any other adventure or accident, I reached the village just as it became dusk, where I found the troops to whom I was attached, and easily accounted for my absence by saying I had mistaken the road.

CHAPTER XIII.

Clinton meets his friend, Glover.—Another Intrigue.—Is promoted to the rank of Deputy-Assistant Commissary-General.

MY march terminated at Portalegre, where I was rejoiced at finding my old companion, who, for the first time, was better off for quarters than I, and we consequently agreed to mess together at his billet.

But Glover, who, from some chance or other, was generally engaged in a love intrigue, had like to have brought us into fresh trouble at this place. He formed an intimacy with a nun belonging to one of the convents within the town, though for prudential motives, I forbear mentioning which. She first attracted his attention by waving her handkerchief from an elevated part of the building

whenever he passed within sight. This intimacy was carried on, without any improper consequences resulting, for some length of time, till at length Glover entrusted me with the secret of a dangerous plan he had formed for enjoying the fair object of his desires, who, it appeared by his story, had herself proposed the measure.

The convent is situated upon a hill, without any houses near it, though behind is a large garden belonging to the building, surrounded by a very high wall of massy stone, at a particular part of which, and within the garden, the fair nun had pointed out to my friend where a large tree grew, one of whose branches rested against the wall in such a manner that a person might easily descend by it from the top of the wall into the garden, from whence, at a certain hour of the night, she promised to conduct him to her cell.

Glover was so elated with the happy prospect before him, that he alike disregarded difficulties and despised dangers; and, on the night agreed upon, away we posted together to the appointed spot, well armed, and pro-

vided with a good cord, which we fastened to a large stone, of which we had previously deposited two under the wall, which Glover then mounted with great ease by means of the cord, his weight being balanced by the stone on the opposite side while he ascended to its summit, which having done, and fixed himself firmly upon the branch of the tree, he untied the cord from the stone, and threw one end of it over to me, that I might fasten it to the other large stone to be ready to facilitate his retreat.

In the execution of this we succeeded according to his wishes, and I waited near the wall for more than three hours before he returned, which he did in safety, and without having created the smallest alarm in the convent. But I had ample cause to laugh at my friend for this adventure, as he returned in such a woful state of trepidation, that he was not himself again, until we got home and he had been cheered with a double allowance of strong cordial, when he confessed, that the fair nun had disguised him at the tree in the garb of her order, and then conducted him

to her cell, where he remained in perfect darkness; neither had he beheld any light while in the convent, except that of a miserable glimmering oil lamp, which stood in the long passage through which she led him in their way to and from her cell.

If I may judge by the condition my friend was in when he returned from the convent, the fair sister could have had no great reason to rejoice at the warmth of her lover. But be that how it might, his passion was evidently much abated, and it was several days before he visited the convent again; neither can I wonder at this falling off, when it is considered what extreme peril he had ran in entering the sacred walls.

Nevertheless, at his next interview at the grating, he made a fresh promise to his fair nun of entering the convent, where, in fact, during our stay at Portalegre, he passed three more nights; and, doubtless, would have repeated these visits, had it not been for an anonymous communication sent from the convent, stating that a suspicion had arisen amongst the superiors, of some man having

passed the walls, and, in consequence, a watch was kept every night, and the sure destruction of all the guilty parties would attend their discovery. This letter, together with the knowledge of the following story, which came to our ears about the same time, most effectually cured Glover from ever thinking more of scaling the convent walls.

A young man, the son of a French gentleman established at Portalegre as a manufacturer of cloth, having been fascinated with the charms of a nun belonging to the convent Glover had visited, and having received every possible encouragement from the fair sister, at length made an assignation with her, promising to enter the convent by passing the garden wall in the dead of the night. He trusted a friend with the secret, who assisted him on the occasion; but, to the dismay of his friend, day-light came, and still his companion did not return, neither has he ever been heard of.

The young man told the father of his unfortunate friend what had happened to his son, and the old gentleman made some stir in the business, though he never could obtain

any satisfaction. It was denied at the convent that any man whatever, except the holy father confessors, had ever entered it; while such was the influence and power of the priests, that the poor parent found it necessary to smother his complaints that he might avoid ruin from their enmity. 'The young man fled the country, and the unfortunate nun was never more seen.

Yet strict as are the rules of these convents, it is nevertheless notorious, that there are few nuns who are not mothers; while it is equally well known, that the confessors have the honor of being the reputed fathers of their children. 'The numerous foundlings' institutions in this country, and even in the town of Portalegre, serve as convenient receptacles for the children of the convents; nor is it thought there are many foundlings in those institutions, except what have sprung from religious orders.

After I had been stationed for a short time at Portalegre, through Commissary-General Porter's interest I had the good fortune to be included in the promotion made in our depart-

ment ; although, from my short standing as a clerk, I certainly possessed very slight claims to this favor. Glover, who had been a clerk much longer than I, was also included,—the same auspicious day making us both deputy-assistant commissary-generals.

CHAPTER XIV.

Clinton visits Crato.—An Irish Duel there.

I WAS extremely elated at my promotion ; and conceiving I was solely indebted for it to the recommendation of Commissary Porter, I lost no time in waiting upon that gentleman to return him my warmest acknowledgements ; when he told me to reserve my thanks for our mutual friend, Colonel Toger, as it was chiefly to oblige that excellent man that he had rendered me this service.

A few days after this event I had the pleasure of seeing Captain Grove, whose regiment was quartered at Crato, an old town about four leagues distant. He came to Portalegre to see Glover and I, and congratulate us on our promotion ; and I obtained a short leave of absence to accompany him back to Crato,

where I purposed taking into my service an invalided corporal of his regiment, whom he strongly recommended to me for honesty and every other good quality.

During the ride to Crato, I related the history of Serjeant Read, which much interested the captain, who assured me that he had always felt fully persuaded the poor fellow was innocent, but that his was one of those unfortunate military cases where no service could have been rendered to the prisoner, as all the chief officers were strongly prejudiced, while the evidence adduced was unfavorable to him. In short, that he (Captain Grove) at the time of his sentence could do no more than pity the brave fellow, which he still did from his heart.

On entering Crato I was much struck with its venerable appearance, its antique buildings, the wall around the town, which is more than half decayed, and its mouldering old castle, whose turrets at that time were partly covered with large storks.

While on this visit, I was often entertained by the frolics of Lieutenant Wright, who,

on one occasion, contrived to engage two Irish ensigns, who had lately joined the regiment, named O'Grady and O'Flaherty, in an argument, when, by occasional but well-timed remarks, while they were warmly disputing, he so worked upon their passions as to make them both use violent and improper language to each other; after which, he intimated to O'Grady that his character would be lost if he neglected to call out O'Flaherty for the language he had used, and then persuaded Lieutenant Millet to tell O'Flaherty it was necessary to his character to call out O'Grady.

Thus were these youths (who had both come from the town of Tipperary, and been intimate from childhood) spurred on to send mutual challenges, which were accepted. Yet it must be acknowledged that both the young gentlemen expressed as much unwillingness towards the combat as they dared venture, but the dread of being stigmatized as cowards, and perhaps turned out of the regiment, got the better of their friendly feelings, and they prepared themselves for the awful encounter.

Lieutenant Wright was engaged as the

second of Ensign O'Grady, while Lieutenant Millet undertook that kind office for Ensign O'Flaherty; and the place appointed for the duel was a retired spot outside the town wall.

These parties proceeded to the spot in question at day-light on the following morning, accompanied by Corporal Brady (the invalid soldier recommended to me as a servant) who, it appears, was employed by the seconds in the malicious design of inspiring greater terror into the principals, to whom they accounted for taking him, by saying they might unfortunately require his services to convey away a dead or wounded body, or probably to fetch a surgeon.

After reaching the appointed ground, the seconds failed not to terrify the minds of the principal as much as possible; they asked them severally if they had made their wills and written to their parents? if they had any message to leave in case of falling? and many other questions of a similar nature, all which the young men bore tolerably well; that is to say, they betrayed no violent marks of fear, though it was evident from their manners and

palpable confusion that they were engaged in a business which they were very far from relishing.

The distance of six paces having been measured with all due formality, and the principals having taken their stations and received the loaded pistols from their seconds, turned themselves with becoming solemnity into the positions they had been tutored to take, and in which they were to remain until the signal to fire, when these old friends were to view each other, as they apprehended, for the last time.

Lieutenant Wright, on whom that task devolved, was in no haste to give the preconcerted signal; on the contrary, he kept the principals for several minutes in a horrid state of suspense; at length he gave it, and the parties fired together with great exactness, but to their mutual terror each discovered, as soon as collected enough, that he himself was frightfully sprinkled with blood.

Meantime the seconds withdrew their principals from each other, severally supporting them to trees remote from each other, under

which they seated them upon the grass, while Brady, with officious zeal, hastened away to bring a surgeon.

Thus disfigured with blood, these young gentlemen were found by the surgeon and more than half a dozen other officers, who accompanied him to the field, and of whom I was one; they were lying in easy positions under the trees, each believing that his antagonist was in a more deplorable condition than himself, yet each afraid to move, for their seconds kept cautioning them against stirring, saying it might bring on violent hemorrhage and cause immediate death.

The surgeon with great gravity alternately examined the apparently wounded duellists, while all the party stood by, making woful faces, and occasionally uttering alarming exclamations, until at length he pronounced that the gentlemen were neither wounded.

The apparent surprise of the by-standers, and the real joy of the duellists at this notification, are not to be described, though many half-stifled laughs were soon heard amongst us, caused by the strangely disfigured appear-

ance of the principals, who, themselves, after having shaken hands and reflected a little upon what had taken place, began to shew signs of sulkiness and anger.

But Lieutenant Wright, who had now enjoyed his joke, saw the propriety of averting the threatening storm, and therefore invited the entire party to breakfast with him, where, by his affability and happy merry disposition, he succeeded, after the duellists had changed their clothes and washed themselves, in reconciling them to the trick which had been played that morning, at their expense, and we were all excellent company together; while in the anticipation of a boar hunt, which Wright proposed for the next day, all former animosity was completely forgotten, and the youthful Irish ensigns were as fond of him as ever.

It may be proper to explain, that the frightful appearance of the duellists, and the alarm which they had consequently sustained, were caused by the pistols having being crammed with bullock's blood, which corporal Brady by the instructions of Lieutenant Wright, had

so safely secured, as neither to wet the powder, nor escape from the muzzles of the pistols.

My leave of absence having expired, I could not stay for the boar hunt, though I felt a strong inclination to partake of that amusement, which Corporal Brady, whose services I had now accepted, assured me was a marvellous good pastime.

I left Crato that same evening, after partaking of an early dinner with Captain Grove, who related to me that Brady had long served to amuse Lieutenant Wright and many other officers of the regiment, who had been in the habit of employing him in numerous droll adventures; "nevertheless," added the captain, "you will find him a faithful fellow, on whom you may safely depend; though, of course, you will see the propriety of not keeping him on such familiar terms as our young gentlemen have done, who, I have no doubt, will regret his being invalided more than they would the loss of a brother officer.

After taking leave of the captain, and when riding slowly out of the town, I was

joined by my friend Wright and several other officers, who came after me to shake hands and wish me well, when Wright whispered that I must oblige him by leaving Brady till next day, which request I could do no otherwise than comply with, particularly as he promised to procure the corporal a fresh pass, and send him after me on the following day.

It was in this pleasant manner that I passed a few days at Crato, and took leave of my old military companions of the Hercules.

CHAPTER XV.

Corporal Brady makes good his Master's Billet.—Clinton's Introduction to the General at Campo Mayor.

NEITHER Glover or I remained much longer at Portalegre; for the promotion we obtained occasioned our being employed in more responsible situations than we had filled as clerks. Glover was sent to the fortress of Elvas, and I was detached on the same day to the town of Campo Mayor.

After receiving our instructions, and I had taken leave of Commissary Porter, we quitted Portalegre together, both mounted on good horses of our own, and each having a mule to carry his baggage, and a private servant to take charge of it; mine, as already mentioned, was Corporal James Brady. Glover's servant

was a sly intelligent Portuguese lad, named Jozé, who had been a pimp at Lisbon, and afterwards a servant to various British officers, each of whom had given him a good written character.

We proceeded that evening to Arronches, where we obtained billets; mine was upon a padre, who either was or affected to be confined to his bed by disease. He had but a poor sort of a house, yet the billet being better than Glover's, we agreed to mess at it; and Brady, in spite of numerous impediments, which the padre's housekeeper threw in his way, soon contrived to knock up a good dinner; but when I thought of retiring to repose, Brady made his report that the padre and his housekeeper occupied the only two beds in the house, although they knew that my billet entitled me to one of them. "And plaise your honour," added the corporal, "they want but one bed when they're alone together, yet would humbug and make us believe, they always sleep apart, and that the old goat is sick of a fever; but, by Jasus, your honour, only give me free lave, and I'll soon cure the

padré of his fever, and send him to bed with his old bedfellow;" having said which, he hastened away, followed by Glover and I, who would fain see what he purposed doing.

Having entered the priest's apartment, he told him, in broken Portuguese, to get up, on which the padré, with many wry faces and frightful exclamations, said, he was *star-mal* with a fever; on which Brady, without further delay or ceremony, gently opened the clothes at the foot of the bed, and drawing an old sword, poked it into the opening right against the priest's posteriors, who, feeling the cold steel, immediately forgot his fever, and, jumping out of bed, ran off with great agility, doubtless to take possession of the house-keeper's quarters, for we saw no more of him that night; while the corporal protested on the following morning, and has continued doing so ever since, that they were locked up together very snugly all the night.

At our breakfast, the padré made his appearance, shewing us the most healthy and jolly countenance we had seen amongst the Portuguese; nor was he sparing of his abuse,

which we affected not to understand, although we clearly made out his threat of reporting our conduct to the commander of the British forces. But Brady, on the other hand, took every opportunity of asking him how he spent his night, and whether the housekeeper had cured his fever ; adding that, if she was so excellent a doctress, by Jasus, she ought to be reported for the general good of the army ! This language soon drove the padré away, and we saw no more of his florid round face.

My friend and I travelled together after breakfast till we came to where the roads divide for Campo Mayor and Elvas, when we parted to proceed to our separate destinations ; and I reached the fortified town of Campo Mayor about sun-set, when I lost no time in seeking the quarters of the general officer who commanded, to report my arrival, which my present situation rendered it incumbent on me to do.

The officer in question was a distinguished member of the British senate, and at the same time a most zealous enterprising character, possessing, probably, more energy of mind

than coolness and sound judgment. He was a steady friend to the effective soldier, whose rations he personally looked to, and consequently they were always as good as could be procured; though, on the other hand, he was somewhat litigious in his military arrangements, and committed that common fault of issuing more orders than could be attended to.

When I arrived at his quarters, the servant very inconsiderately ushered me into the room where the general was, instead of first announcing my name, which, knowing how his master was employed, he ought to have been most particular in doing. As it happened, he opened the door rather suddenly, and at an unlucky moment, when the general was in the very act of receiving a tremendous blow from the fist of an officer with whom he was sparring, and which knocked him backwards with great force upon the ground, and against my legs, in such a manner that I lost my balance, and fell upon the prostrate general.

I felt terribly disconcerted at my situation; but the enterprising hero, springing up,

quickly pushed me on one side, without regarding who I was, and, without losing a moment, set-to again with great vigour, and continued sparring for four more rounds, when he had his revenge by knocking down his adversary, after which he became tranquil.

The combatants having put on their regimentals, I found that I was in company with the commandant of the fortress and a captain belonging to one of the regiments of his brigade; and, strange to say, for he was scarcely ever known to give a dinner, I had, on this occasion, the honour of partaking of that meal with him and the captain, whose conduct in the boxing match had given the general such complete satisfaction, that he agreed at this dinner to sanction the captain's application for leave of absence to England, which was accordingly obtained, though every similar application from other officers had been refused by this distinguished general.

I was very comfortably situated at Campo Mayor, having a good billet and pleasant society amongst the officers, whilst my in-

creased pay enabled me to keep a snug table at home, where I generally had a friend to dine with me when I was not invited out. The rations were good, owing to the general's indefatigable perseverance, who would permit none, except the best articles the country afforded, to be supplied to the troops; nor did he hesitate in confining in a common guard-house the mayors of such towns as had sent him inferior provisions or wine; until, at length, such was the terror he inspired, that his brigade were certain of being furnished with the best of every thing. I have been told that, in the early part of the campaign, it was not uncommon for him to imprison half a dozen magistrates together, detaining them from the towns and villages to which they belonged, until good rations were brought, and they had promised to amend their conduct.

This bustling general had caused great trouble to the commissaries, though now it was quite the reverse, and we had little else to do than make the necessary requisitions, and attend to those made upon us.

CHAPTER XVI.

Trial of a Corporal, and his humorous Defence.

I HAD contracted at my father's house the habit of rising early, which the marches in this country had fully confirmed, and being upon the ramparts of Campo Mayor at an early hour one morning, I saw from them a party of the provost guard apprehend a soldier in the act of stealing fruit from a garden. Curiosity made me descend from the rampart as the prisoner was being conveyed into the town, and I witnessed his being led into the market place, where the provost guard was stationed ; and the provost being on the spot, immediately executed a well-timed and most summary punishment on the poor fellow in the following manner ; of which the example

could not fail in being beneficial amongst a body of troops.

He turned out the whole of the provost guard, and having ordered the unfortunate culprit to strip, which he was slow in doing, he, in spite of his urgent entreaties for pardon and his numerous promises of offending no more, directed that he should immediately be stripped by force, and tied to the lofty pillar of Justice which stands in the middle of the market place. This done, he ordered the drummer of the guard to commence the operation of flogging; nor did he direct the drum-boy to cease until the man had received far the greater portion of one hundred lashes, well laid on upon his naked back, when he ordered that he should be taken down.

No sooner had the soldier slipped on his clothes, and stopped making the bellowing cries which the painful flagellation forced from him, than the provost told him to remember the little lesson he had received, and that he now had permission to march away and join his regiment; adding he (the soldier) might keep secret what had happened

to him if he chose, for he (the provost) would not tell any person of it.

This communication had the immediate effect of setting every one a laughing, as at that time there were present not only soldiers belonging to every regiment but to every company in the garrison, who had beheld the punishment this poor fellow had just received.

On another occasion I was much surprised and amused at the defence made by a corporal, at his trial, before a brigade court-martial.

This man had been employed, with a party of Portuguese under his command, to convey some bullocks from Lisbon to the brigade of troops at Campo Mayor, which had recently arrived from Barbary; for it should be observed, that the British army often received large supplies from that country. At Lisbon the corporal had a sealed letter given to him from the office of the chief commissary, at the time the bullocks were put under his charge, with directions to deliver the animals, together with the letter, to the commissary at Campo Mayor.

But, as ill luck would have it, he was not aware that the letter contained a minute de-

scription of the size and colour of the different animals; while on the march, he was tempted for the sake of a difference in money, to exchange the largest of the African bullocks for a Portuguese bullock of a much smaller size; and what rendered the case still more glaring, the animal he had parted with was described as, and proved to have been, a white one, while that which he exchanged it for was black.

The evidence against him at the trial was perfectly clear and conclusive; yet, when asked what he had to say in his defence, he astonished the whole court by his effrontery, in positively affirming that the animal he delivered at Campo Mayor was the very same he had received at Lisbon; and upon one of the members of the court declaring this was impossible, as he had received a white bullock and delivered up a black one, he had the further assurance to swear, in his native tongue, the broad Irish brogue, that it was the identical animal, though he owned 'twas also true the baist he received was a white one; "but, by the holy Jasus," added Pat, "it was an obstinate animal, who would not travel

without much bating ; so, your honor, I was obliged to bate him, and to bate him again, till at last I bate the animal till he became all over black !”

The members of the court could not smother their laughter, but were almost convulsed with it, whilst Pat, whose sagacity had discovered his case was a bad one, and who had consequently stuck to his story, because he thought it afforded the only chance of escaping punishment, kept repeating over and over again, all his ridiculous assertions about bating the white bullock black, until the president of the court found it absolutely necessary to order him to be conveyed out of the room, that some gravity might be restored.

But what was most extraordinary in this business, Pat experienced the happiest result from his defence ; for the general, who was extremely amused at it, finding the man had hitherto borne an excellent character, both for bravery and general good conduct, was pleased, after detaining him in confinement for a few days, to grant him a free pardon.

CHAP XVII.

Clinton profits by an Example.—Contrast between the Spaniards and Portuguese.

PROSPERITY is dangerous. The easy life that I led at Campo Mayor, and the confidence which was reposed in me, went far towards turning my head. I began to fancy myself a personage of no little consequence; giving myself numerous airs with the clerks of the commissariat, as though I had never been one; and even forgetting myself so much as to grow negligent of my business, and to assume consequence with the quartermasters of regiments and other subordinate officers when they came for rations.

To what pitch this folly might have carried me, before I was taught better, it is impossible to surmise; but luckily for me, I had

not long given way to this arrogant conduct, before I had an opportunity of benefiting by a lesson which was very properly given to a commissary of much higher rank than I held.

One day I accompanied an officer belonging to one of the regiments in Campo Mayor in taking a ride to Badajoz, which we entered by passing the long bridge of twenty-five arches thrown over that fine river, the Guadiana, which divides the kingdoms of Spain and Portugal. Having passed the bridge and rode some little distance into the town, we met one of the most distinguished generals in the British army; an officer of talents inferior to none; superior to all in hospitality, and subordinate in rank to one only serving in the Peninsula.

He was on horseback, accompanied by a numerous staff, and it so happened that whilst we were opposite to him he observed a small party of soldiers standing near the commissariat store-house, to whom he immediately rode, and enquired whence they came, and what they were waiting for? In reply, they told him they were just off the march

from the general hospital at Lisbon, and had come that day from Elvas on the way to join their regiment, and that they were waiting for their rations. On this the general desired one of his staff to order the commissary to issue these mens' rations without the smallest delay, and at the same time to caution him never to keep soldiers waiting unnecessarily for their provisions.

Having delivered these instructions in a loud voice, so that every person present must have heard them, the general proceeded on his ride ; nor was it till several days afterwards that I heard the following particulars, resulting from the commissary's insolence or neglect in not attending to the general's peremptory order.

It appears, that the general returned to Badajoz in about three hours after issuing these instructions, when, in passing near to the commissariat store, he observed the same party of soldiers still waiting there ; on which he enquired, what they remained so long there for ? and on learning that their rations were not yet issued, he ordered the commissary to

be called ; and, on his appearing, peremptorily asked, why his orders had not been obeyed ?

The commissary seemed to make light of the business, and merely answered by saying, he had been much occupied ; upon which, the general became extremely angry, and told the commissary to mind what he was about, or he would make a severe example of him, for it ill became such an idle fellow as he was to keep brave soldiers starving for hours in the public street, after a fatiguing march.

In answer to this speech, the commissary again made some improper remark, which so irritated the general, that he spoke still harsher, and concluded his speech by affirming, that if the mens' rations were not issued to them within ten minutes, he would that same day, before sun-set, make a memorable example of the commissary by publicly hanging him at the nearest town gate.

The general now rode away, leaving an orderly dragoon to follow him, with a report of the exact time when the men obtained their rations ; meanwhile, the commissary took especial good care that they were issued before the expiration of the ten minutes.

The following morning the commissary, feeling indignant at the treatment he had received, waited upon the general to expostulate with him about it, when, obtaining no satisfaction, but on the contrary his complaints provoking still more harsh language, he observed, that the general ought at least to recollect that his situation entitled him to write gentleman after his name, and he certainly ought to be treated accordingly. Upon hearing which, the general, still further incensed, told him that there was a mistake in the business, and swore that he would write to the lords of the treasury to have it rectified, by the word *gentleman* being erased from standing after his name.

This language and treatment so inflamed the passions of the commissary, that away he posted to the head-quarters of the army, and made his complaint to the commander of the forces, who, having listened to him with attention, asked in a serious tone if the general had really threatened to hang him. On which he assured his excellency he had spoken nothing more than the truth, as he could bring witnesses to prove. "Then, sir," said the

commander of the forces, with great gravity, "I recommend you to return back directly to your station, and to pay the strictest attention to all the general's orders, for," added he, "I know him well; and, by G—, if he says he will hang you, he will certainly keep his word!"

Thus was this proud commissary thoroughly humbled, and taught for the future to know his proper situation, and be attentive to the duties of his department, in place of assuming foolish airs, and detaining poor harassed soldiers, for whose service he held his employment, for hours together in the public street, waiting his pleasure ere they obtained those rations to which they had a just claim.

The lesson was of importance to me, making me ever afterwards far more attentive to the commissariat duties; and, in particular, to that leading branch of them, the issuing of provisions and other rations in a prompt manner to every rank in the army.

The contrast between the cleanliness of Badajoz and the Portuguese towns on the opposite frontier is most striking. The

streets of the latter are all filthy, whilst those of the former are kept in a state of comparative cleanliness. In Portugal, excepting Lisbon and some houses in the large cities, or belonging to noblemen, it may be said that the houses are without chimneys; and there really is no such a convenience to be found; but, as a substitute, the people break a tile or two off the roofs of their houses, right over the places where their fires are made, which miserable contrivance has the effect of letting in the wet, whilst very little of the smoke escapes by it.

But in Spain, and often little more than a stone's throw from this wretched contrivance, every house has a large fire-place, something like those of our old farm-houses in England, wherein numerous sides of bacon are hung to dry, and several people may seat themselves snugly in its corners.

Alas! this contrast proceeds from national jealousy and prejudice, the one country being above copying from the other what is useful or advantageous; neither is this meanness peculiar to these states, it being unfor-

fortunately the case with all countries that adjoin each other ; though, with this variation, that the smaller and more contemptible the state, the greater is its hatred and prejudice to its neighbour.

It must also be allowed, that the Spanish people are more cleanly in their persons than the Portuguese, the latter being filthy beyond the powers of description ; even such a thing as a comb is not to be seen amongst the lower orders, although they encourage a profuse growth of hair. A celebrated English Duchess, who resided for some time at Lisbon, ever afterwards declared, that she never entered the house of a Portuguese during her whole stay there without being compelled to change her garments when she returned home, to get rid of the numerous guests that invariably accompanied her grace from such a visit.

Yet we must allow that this religious people, who worship the Almighty through the medium of a numerous army of saints and martyrs, shew a thorough detestation of all heathen deities, insomuch, that I strongly doubt whether, in the whole country of Portugal,

there is one temple dedicated to the goddess Cloacæna.

The indecency of the funerals in this country is also revolting to nature ; for though the corpse in the first instance receives every sort of attention, by being dressed in the richest clothes the person possessed when living, and a nosegay placed on the bosom, yet, within a few hours after the breath is out of the body, the corpse is deposited without any other covering, and lying upon its back in a hole several feet deep, when quantities of quicklime are thrown over it, and a couple of men, with heavy stakes, beat it down with all their force, so that, unquestionably, every bone of the face and ribs must be broken.

But, to turn to pleasanter subjects. The fruits and other garden productions in both countries are delicious and abundant; the water-melons, in particular, exquisitely good, and so plentiful and cheap that the hogs are chiefly fattened on them and the husks of the grape. But the agriculturists are unworthy of the genial climate and prolific soil ; they take no trouble in manuring

their lands. When the harvest is reaped, according to their fashion, by cutting about half way down the straw, and safely housed, they set fire to the stubble, the ashes of which is all the manure the lands get.

A whole tract of country, often as far as the eye can command, is frequently blazing in the autumn of the year; and as the stubble is usually set fire to in the evening, its effect after dark is truly imposing and grand.

I shall conclude by contrasting the appearance of the Spanish women at Badajoz to that of the Portuguese in the towns on their frontier, and who are dirty, slovenly, awkward, unpolished, and generally ill-made; whilst those of Badajoz are graceful in their manners, elegant in their persons, and always well clothed, their usual dress being black silk, neatly made up, so as to shew their fine figures to advantage, with black silk stockings, shewing their beautifully tapered legs.

CHAP XVIII.

Clinton receives a Visit from Captain Grove and Major Leek.—The latter relates his having been taken by the French, and his Escape.

ABOUT this time my friend, Captain Grove, paid me a visit on his way from Crato to Badajoz, where he was going for the purpose of sitting upon a general court-martial. He was accompanied by Major Leek, and they obtained billets in Campo Mayor, where I entreated them to partake of my mess.

The Major had been only a few days in Portugal, since effecting his escape from a party of French, who had escorted him to the very foot of the Pyrenees, where he eluded their vigilance and effected his escape. But his narrative of the imprisonment and

his escape from it is amusing, therefore I will repeat it in his own words:—

“ It was my misfortune,” said the major, “ to be taken prisoner near Talavera on the evening of the last day’s fight, which misfortune arose from my being struck by a spent ball upon the cap of my knee, just as my regiment had received orders to cease pursuing the enemy, and to return to the station it occupied before the engagement.

“ This rendered it impossible for me to march, and my horse had been killed early in the day, therefore I sat down at the foot of a tree, telling my orderly man to hasten to the rear and bring me a horse ; but I was not left alone long in this situation, ere a party of French dragoons, who had observed our troops retire, ventured to cross from the opposite side of the river Alberchi, in the hope of obtaining plunder as well as to reconnoitre, and unfortunately they discovered me.

“ Undoubtedly these fellows would have murdered and stript me, had not their officer prevented them, who, seeing by my epaulettes, that I was an officer of some rank, contented

himself by taking my sword, and permitting his men to plunder me of my watch and purse of money, after which he mounted me behind one of the dragoons, and in this manner I was conveyed over the Alberchi, and delivered up to the French general, by whose orders I was confined in a dilapidated house, where there were many wounded Frenchmen, whose groans and blasphemous imprecations disturbed and shocked me during the whole night. Here I received a ration of bad brown bread, and the soldiers employed to guard me forcibly took away my epaulettes and cocked hat, giving me, in place of the latter, a French soldier's greasy forage cap. On the following morning my knee was considerably better, and I was marched away, with several other English prisoners, to the rear of the French army, on the road towards Madrid.

“Two prisoners escaped from the escort on the night after the first day's march, which occasioned the remainder to be harshly treated, and invariably locked up at night in some miserable close room, where we sometimes were nearly suffocated, and always bitten by

vermin in so wretched a manner, as to allow us little or no repose.

“ We were kept a fortnight upon the road in this miserable manner, sometimes halting for a day or two, and then proceeding upon the march again, before we reached Madrid ; in which capital I had somewhat more respect paid to me, being treated as an imprisoned officer, receiving better rations, and being confined in a large airy room.

“ I was detained at Madrid for about three weeks, when I was one of ten English prisoners put under the care of a French colonel to be conveyed to France. We marched from the capital of Spain, on the route towards France, in the beginning of September ; the escort consisting of the said colonel and four other French officers, besides several serjeants, and thirty-five soldiers ; nearly the whole of whom had been wounded, or otherwise rendered unfit for active service while in Spain.

“ Amongst the British prisoners was a captain, two lieutenants, a serjeant, and five soldiers, which, with myself, completed the

number to ten ; and, in justice to this party of my countrymen, I must say they were all well behaved and friendly to each other, as well officers as men.

“ But of all the characters that ever I met with, I think the French colonel was the most extraordinary. Upon parade or other duties he was always well dressed in a handsome regimental coat, with two rich gold bullion epaulettes, white smallclothes, waistcoat, and large dragoon boots, accoutred with a tremendous long sword and two brace of loaded pistols, and was master of three excellent Spanish horses and half a dozen mules ; all of the latter heavily loaded with the booty he had made amongst the Spaniards.

“ ‘ This extraordinary man (as I learnt upon the march) was one of the *enfant trouvé*’s of Paris, where he had been, in succession, a shoe-black, a butcher’s-boy, a charcoal-man, a cabriolet-driver, a grave-digger, a water-carrier, and a waiter at a coffee-house, which last situation he was compelled to quit to become a soldier, having been drawn by the conscription ; nor was he long with the army

before his courage and the desperation of his conduct in battle, caused, doubtless, by his poverty and want of patronage, led to his advancement; and he became a corporal, a serjeant, and, shortly afterwards, a subaltern officer, when it was his good fortune to attract the notice of the French emperor, who rapidly promoted him, from step to step, until he became a colonel; and he was now on his way to France in the sanguine expectation of being made a general officer.

“This man never let pass an opportunity of serving himself, in whatever manner it might offer; for whether honorable or dishonorable was the same thing to him, provided he attained his end. In short, he would plunder a Spaniard with whom he was serving, or a foe conquered in battle, with the same indifference, looking only to two things, the value of the booty, and the means of avoiding detection.

“It was even well known, that a great portion of the wealth with which his mules were laden, had been obtained by his marrying a

Spanish lady, although he had several wives living at the time

“ All these particulars, and many others, were related to me ; but I witnessed more than enough to satisfy me as to this fellow’s character.

“ At the end of a day’s march, wherein he had given himself every possible air of consequence, he would make nothing of stripping off his superb regimentals and putting on an old fustian dress, in which disguise he would enter a barn, field, or outhouse, accompanied by several chosen men, and steal a sheep, a pig, geese, or whatever offered worth his notice ; which stolen animals he would assist in killing, skinning, and cutting-up, and afterwards in cooking ; and then dress himself in his full regimentals, and preside at the officers’ table, where he would distribute the food.

“ I have frequently seen him disturbed at these dinners to receive the complaints of the poor Spaniards against the theft of their property, which complaints he apparently lis-

tened to with great attention, and always promised to redress them, sending the complainants away with a favorable impression of his justice, and with sanguine hopes of having their property returned. But, in all cases where these regular complaints were made, I observed that it was his practice to march off a full hour before day-break next morning.

“ It generally happened that when this gentleman was quartered in a good house, where plate or table linen was produced for his use, that some valuable article was lost; but, strange to say, I never heard of a single instance of any such article being afterwards found, although his whole detachment were sometimes examined, with the exception of himself and his baggage.

“ It was an invariable rule with this distinguished officer never to pay for any article of food while serving out of France, therefore when he was so situated that rations were not served out to him, he compelled the inhabitants of the place, or the parties on

whom his detachment was billeted, to supply his people with wine and provisions in abundance, for which, if pressed for it, he gave them his receipt or acknowledgment, which was worth nothing more than the slip of paper on which it was written.

“ Yet this officer was much beloved by the soldiers under his command ; nor was it to be wondered at, as he procured them good food, and winked at their loose conduct to the inhabitants of the different places where they marched ; but even in thus favoring the soldiers, he had an eye to his own interest, for in return for these favors they were silent on the subject of his numerous impositions.

“ Still, in other respects, he kept his party in a good state of discipline, far better than French officers usually do ; and by the help of mules, which he pressed from stage to stage upon this march, he contrived to keep them all pretty well together ; which, considering the miserable condition the men were in, was a difficult task, and did him great credit, besides, in all probability, saving many men

from being killed by the Spaniards, who made no scruple of murdering every straggling Frenchman.

“ We were upwards of a month upon this march before we came near to the Pyrenees, for we had frequently to halt for a day or two at a time to refresh the crippled soldiers. During the whole of this march, I vainly sought for an opportunity of escaping, although one of the English lieutenants and three of the soldiers succeeded in doing so at different periods; but a fourth poor soldier was not so fortunate, for he was taken in the act of getting away, and shot dead by the colonel's own hand, which dreadful example so effectually checked the courage of the remainder of us, that we almost gave up the thought of attempting to escape.

“ The French were also reduced by five of their party, two of whom, in spite of their colonel's excellent regulations, had straggled away for plunder, and been killed by the Spaniards, while three of the others had been left by their commander at different French hospitals on our route.

“ At length I effected my purpose. We had halted for the night at a village one day’s march from Pampeluna, where, as usual, the prisoners were divided to sleep amongst the party of French soldiers; but the colonel, elevated with the fumes of wine, and pleased with the prospect of being so near France, opened his heart for once, by sending at a latish hour an invitation to all the British officers, his prisoners, to come to his quarters and take wine with him. We found him in high glee, toasting bumpers to the health of the great Napoleon; but, after drinking several glasses of wine, I affected illness as an excuse for returning to my quarters, for I thought this would be a good opportunity of effecting my escape, having left the Frenchmen who were to sleep in the room with me both tired and sleepy, and it being very improbable that they would be in a hurry to trouble themselves about one whom they would suppose to be still with their colonel; besides, I well knew that when I was missed, they would not venture to search after me far far out of the village.

“Therefore, on quitting the French colonel’s quarters, from whence I was left to walk alone to my own billet, I merely went a few paces on my proper road, when finding I was not watched, I turned off in a different direction, and soon reached the entrance of the village, when I quickened my pace, hastening forwards as fast as I was able.

“In this manner I kept travelling, until daylight broke, when I turned off the road into a wood, where I lay hid for the greater part of that day; but towards evening a Spaniard came suddenly upon me, and mistaking me for a Frenchman, was hastening away, when, considering that he might give information against me to the French, or perhaps return with a party of his countrymen to murder me, I decided upon letting him know who I was, as the least dangerous course I could pursue.

“With this intention I hurried after him, though I had some difficulty in getting him to halt; nor did he, until he had satisfied himself I was without arms, and had repeatedly heard me say I was an Englishman who had escaped

from the French. When we had had a few words conversation together, for I fortunately knew enough of Spanish to make him understand me, he hid me in a retired part of the wood, where I remained until dusk, when he returned, bringing with him some bread, bacon, and wine, which we partook of together; and afterwards he conducted me a distance of about five leagues, through retired roads, until we came to a lonely cottage, where he entered and introduced me to its inhabitants, a Spanish peasant and his wife. After telling them who I was, the peasant produced what food he had, and we all partook of it together. There I lay hid that day, and at night my friend set off to return home, while the peasant left his family to escort me upon my road towards Portugal.

“Having mentioned the handsome conduct of these two poor but worthy Spaniards, I need say no more for the honor of the brave peasantry of their country, than that I found them all alike; for were I to write a narrative of my escape from the mountains of the Pyrenees to the moment of reaching this coun-

try, it would contain nothing more than a repetition of their daily kindnesses to me. In a word, during the whole of this tremendous long march, through a country possessed by my enemies, I was hid and fed every day in the cottages of the poor peasantry, while at night I was escorted from place to place by them, always in safety, though frequently close to an enemy who would have executed these honest people, without the smallest scruple, for offering me this protection.

“From the circuitous routes I was often obliged to take, that the French garrison towns and detached troops might be avoided, and also from the stoppages it was necessary to make in various peasants houses, in consequence of occasional lameness and other causes, it was nearly two months before I entered Portugal, which at length I did in safety, in the neighbourhood of Castello de Vide, after having tramped on foot the greater part of one thousand miles since I was taken prisoner.”

CHAPTER XIX.

An amusing Anecdote of Corporal Brady.

THE whole party felt much interested at the Major's narrative; and I observed that Brady, under one pretence or other, staid in the room during the whole time he was relating it; at length after its conclusion, and the remarks of several of the party upon the dangers to which the Major had been exposed, Captain Grove, turning round to Brady, said, "Major Leek has been more fortunate than you, Brady, for the French did not succeed in cutting his sack." This the corporal acknowledged with a broad grin, accompanied by the exclamation of "No, by Jasus, captain!" which created a curiosity amongst us to know what was alluded to; and after Brady

had left the room, we failed not to inquire the particulars of Captain Grove, who, laughing, said, "he should have great pleasure in gratifying our curiosity.

"You must know then, gentlemen," said the captain, "that I was once detached at an out-post, stationed at a frontier village of Portugal, where I had a couple of companies with me, when the French, in the middle of the night after Saint Patrick's day, surprised and beat in my picquets, which they followed so closely upon, that we were all, French and English, for a time mixed pell-mell together.

"Fortunately my detachment turned out pretty quickly, or every man of us would have been taken or killed; for we had no support nearer than two leagues, while a large French force was following after the troops engaged with us; but our promptness in turning out saved us on this occasion, and enabled us to succeed in driving off the enemy, and making him disgracefully re-cross the bridge, where he had just before overpowered our picquet; this too before a trifling force, about one-third of his own num-

ber; besides, he left many men dead and wounded behind him.

“ Now it happened on this occasion, that Corporal James Brady, who doubtless had taken his full allowance of drink in toasting the memory of the glorious Saint Patrick, was nevertheless one of the first men in the detachment to turn out and oppose these Frenchmen ; and 'tis but justice to him to say, he fought them most bravely, and pushed vigorously after them as they fled down the hill leading to the bridge ; but, unfortunately, Saint Patrick had forgotten poor Brady, who, although he had hitherto escaped wounds, was now stopt in his career by a bullet, which passed through his body ; and, while the poor fellow lay roaring upon the ground from the pain caused by this wound, I chanced to pass near enough for him to observe me ; on which he began bellowing out with redoubled vigour, crying, ‘ Ah, captain ! by Jasus, captain, they have cut my sack at last ! the Frenchmen have cut my sack ! Oh, my poor old sack ! ’ ”

Here Captain Grove was interrupted by

the entrance of Brady himself, whose healthy and jolly appearance formed so striking a contrast to that of a man on the point of dying, from his sack being cut (as Brady styled the skin of his body), that none of us could avoid laughing outright; while Brady, who seemed to be acquainted with the cause of our merriment, gave a knowing kind of grin as he walked towards the side-table, at the same time clapping both his hands upon his well-lined corporation, which mummery caused us to laugh still more outrageously, although nothing was said by any of the party upon the subject of our merriment, until Brady had retired from the room.

My guests were so well pleased with their entertainment, that they suffered themselves to be persuaded to stay a second day at Campo Mayor, to dine with me again, as the court-martial was not to assemble for a day or two. Nor were my friends at all sparing of Mr. Commissary's wine on this visit, but drank it as though it cost me nothing; for it may be observed, that even well-informed military men frequently entertain the notion

that a commissary gets every article of food and drink for nothing; as if he could serve himself without rendering an account of the stores placed under his care.

But this is rather too tender a subject for a commissary to discuss, as it would ill become him to discover the mysteries of his profession; and no trade, employment, or profession, is without its mysteries.

CHAPTER XX.

The Sameness of a Soldier's Life in Quarters.—A curious Medical Case.

THE life of a soldier, while wintering in a garrison town, seldom exhibits much variety ; but is a mere repetition of frivolous employments and pastimes ; the same routine of duty, and a succession of trifling amusements, of a nature similar to each other, occupy all his time : and although I was no soldier, yet my situation as a commissary placed me precisely on the footing of one, as far at least as regarded the disposal of my hours. It is true, I had no guards or picquets to mount, neither had I any parades or flogging matches to attend ; but then I had the rations of every

sort to issue both for man and beast, which was equivalent to the duty of the soldier; while, as to our amusements, they could not be otherwise than alike.

We dined, we supped, and we made up drinking matches with each other; we rode about the country; we hunted partridges and hares, and sometimes we shot them; we raced our horses, mules, and asses against each other, and sometimes we had foot races; we had jumping matches, and others for sparring and wrestling; we played at trap-ball, and occasionally at cricket; while, in wet weather, many amongst us sat from morning till night playing at cards, backgammon, drafts, dominos, or chess; and some tossed up money, guessed odd or even, or drew straws to decide their wagers. But a few, perhaps, read or wrote away a portion of their leisure time; which extraordinary conduct caused them to be laughed at by all the other officers, and I was amongst those who were thus ridiculed. Yet there were some amongst us that were not so innocently employed; their chief amusement was intriguing; or, more properly speak-

ing, trying to seduce peoples' wives and daughters; but what success they may have had I never learnt, neither was I anxious to know; for these gentlemen's exploits are best veiled in darkness.

An odd case occurred in the brigade hospital at Campo Mayor while I was at that town, which served to puzzle all the medical gentlemen, and set them at variance one with another; and as they never could be brought to one opinion upon it, while it really seems to be a very curious case, and is well authenticated, I will take upon me to relate it, because it may probably serve to afford matter for discussion amongst still graver doctors, who may possibly enlighten the world by coming to some able and unanimous decision on the subject.

There was a soldier belonging to one of the regiments in this garrison, who had complained of illness for upwards of two months, during which period scarcely any thing remained upon his stomach; while the efforts of the surgeons to afford him relief proved altogether abortive; and, as if to spite them,

the man gradually became thinner and paler, until at last he was little better than a skeleton, and his face looked the image of death.

Sometimes he was confined as a close patient in the hospital; at other times permitted to be an out-patient; in short, the surgeons knew not what to do with him, as they could not discover the cause of his complaint; yet in one thing they all agreed, namely, that the man would soon die.

At the crisis of this poor fellow's illness he was a patient in the hospital, where, by the by, he was not permitted to take any strong beverage nor food of a heating nature, being kept upon an extreme low diet; but his sufferings from the pain in his stomach growing more violent, he determined to try an experiment of his own, which, though quite contrary to the surgeon's prescription, he fancied he should obtain some benefit from.

Fixed in this resolution, the poor fellow persuaded one of his comrades to procure for him rather more than half a pint of *aqua-denté*, (a strong spirit extracted from the grape), and to smuggle it into the hospital, which

being done, he without hesitation drank off the whole of this dose.

But this act of his being contrary to the hospital regulations, was of course performed in private ; that this to say, the man went into a corner of the ward or room in which he was confined with about a dozen more men, and then drank off the spirit from a mouth of a small calabash, in which his comrade had brought it to him.

But it appears the liquor was scarcely down his throat, before it caused sickness at the stomach ; and the man's sudden exclamations on this occasion made several of the other patients, as also one of the hospital attendants, approach him to see what was the matter, when, to their extreme surprise, they perceived the man had vomited a large spotted lizard, which, at that time, retained sufficient life to move about a little, though it shortly afterwards died.

The surgeon of the regiment to which this man belonged was immediately sent for, and great appeared his surprise on this occasion, though he had the satisfaction of finding his

patient was relieved from all pain, and enjoying the first moment's ease he had experienced since the commencement of his disorder.

The surgeon put innumerable questions to the man, as well as to all the party present; and finally concluded his visit by placing the dead lizard in a bottle of spirits, and bearing it away with him as a trophy.

The following day there was a consultation held in the hospital, at which all the surgeons in the garrison were present; the lizard was produced, and the man who had discharged it was most minutely examined.

At this examination, he persisted in the same tale, namely, that he had suffered from a pain in his stomach for upwards of two months; that at first the pain was slight, though it had gradually, he might almost say daily increased, until life itself became insupportable, insomuch, that when he drank the *aqua-denté*, he did it in the hope of getting relief, or being killed.

To the inquiries of the surgeons as to how the lizard got into his stomach, he could give no information whatever.

The surgeons having thoroughly questioned the man, and satisfied themselves from those who witnessed the transaction, that he had really vomited the animal before them, afterwards had much able discussion on the case, though their learned arguments (as is usually the case) tended to no result. One of them gave it as his opinion that the man had swallowed the animal in a draught of water, when in a state of animalcule; another said, it must have crept down his throat when asleep; a third, that he had swallowed it in his drink when it was a small lizard; a fourth surgeon was of a different opinion; and a fifth varied from them all; until at length these gentlemen parted in high words upon a subject on which they were all equally ignorant.

This case was afterwards submitted for the consideration of the higher doctors in the British army; but I could never learn of their pronouncing an unanimous opinion upon it.

CHAPTER XXI.

An Adventure, and a Boar Hunt.

WHILE I remained at Campo Mayor, a hunting match was proposed by various officers of the garrisons of Elvas, Badajoz, and this town, which was to take place in the immense forest of Albuquerque, which extends for a great distance along the Guadiana river, and affords cover and protection to numerous herds of deer, wolves, boars, foxes, and other wild animals.

The time and place was arranged, on a previous day, for the officers from the several stations to assemble in the forest, so that each party might proceed by the nearest or most convenient road to the appointed spot from which the hunt was to commence.

Now the party from Campo Mayor happened to be the weakest in numbers of all the three, as in consequence of a brigade field-day taking place, none of the regimental officers could attend, therefore a staff-surgeon of the name of Brown, and his two servants, together with a commissary's clerk, named Jackson, and James Brady, who accompanied me, constituted the whole party.

We started for the place of appointment before day-light in the morning; each of us mounted, and armed with a good fowling-piece, the doctor's and mine being double-barrelled; besides which, Brady had a large horse-pistol, while the commissary's clerk, the doctor, Brady, and myself, had a sword each.

Having rode a brisk pace, and the distance being within four leagues, it was still an early hour when we reached the forest, into which we had scarcely entered when we met a Portuguese peasant, whom we stopped to ask a question of, but he was in such a state of trepidation as to be incapable of answering it for some time. At length, when he had recovered a little from his fears, he told us there

was a Spanish banditti then assembled in an old ruined chapel, which stood near to where we were.

Brady, who acted as our interpreter, questioned the man in a very minute manner, and then, turning to the doctor and me, proposed that we should surprise the banditti, who, he said, the Portuguese had told him were half drunk, and revelling over a rich booty, which it was well known to him they had made during the preceding night. Brady therefore suggested that we should leave our horses in the care of the Portuguese, then load our pieces with ball, and follow behind him at a certain distance, so as to keep him in sight, and attend to any signals he might make, without being near enough to be discovered by the banditti.

This we all assented to, and immediately dismounted, gave our horses to the care of the Portuguese, loaded our fowling-pieces with ball, and followed Brady, who had previously been directed by the Portuguese the road which led to the chapel.

The foliage of the trees and underwood

being thick, we were enabled to keep pretty close to him without much danger of discovery; and when we got near to the chapel, we observed him reconnoitre very sharply about, till, having satisfied himself there was no danger from without, he peeped into a crevice of the door which stood partly open, and then made the signal for us to advance in a silent manner.

We obeyed the signal, and having got to one side of the chapel door, Brady whispered us that the banditti consisted of four, who were seated upon the ground drinking, while their arms were laying at a short distance from them against a side wall of the chapel; and that with our sanction, he added, he would rush into the chapel, and seize their captain, whose back was towards the door, provided we engaged to follow close after him to secure the rest of the gang before they got to their arms.

This being assented to, the valiant corporal lost no time in fulfilling his promise, but rushed hastily into the chapel, and seized the leader of the banditti in so vigorous a manner,

that he could make no resistance, while the rest of us, who followed close after Brady, effectually secured the other three thieves before they could even rise from the ground; much less get possession of their fire-arms.

This exploit being so happily performed, we bound the arms of our prisoners tightly behind them with some cords belonging to themselves, which happened very opportunely to be laying in the chapel with their saddles; and Brady, who had an eye to business in this adventure, now carefully searched the prisoners for booty; nor was he unsuccessful in the search, for he found about four hundred dollars and two silver watches amongst them.

Here I should observe, that all the banditti, but most especially the captain, were extremely anxious to obtain their freedom, and made very liberal offers through our interpreter for it. In short, the captain swore he would transmit two thousand dollars to whatever place and at whatever time we appointed, provided we let him free, while the other men promised as much as five hundred dollars each for their freedom. The corporal

would fain have had us comply with these offers; but neither I nor Mr. Brown would listen to any overtures of the kind, therefore having secured our prisoner's fire-arms, we sent one of the servants to bring the Portuguese peasant and our horses, which, being done, we detached the peasant away to procure an escort from the next village to take charge of our prisoners, and we mounted him upon one of the four horses we had taken; for I should observe, that while our messenger was gone for the Portuguese, we discovered the banditti's four horses staked down to feed under some trees at the back of the chapel.

During the time the peasant was away, each individual of the banditti frequently repeated his offer of a bribe to purchase his liberty; and they even augmented the amount of their several offers. But, although I have no doubt, from the sort of honour upon which these characters plume themselves, that they would have fulfilled their promises most scrupulously, yet it was utterly impossible for men

in the situations of Mr. Brown or myself to comply with such proposals, or in any manner to sanction their escape.

I must own that I felt pain on this occasion, and was truly sorry that I had ever consented to the measures we had taken against these unfortunate people; for the recollection of the generous conduct of poor Read and the banditti who captured me, came fresh upon my mind, and served to impress upon it the most unfavourable thoughts of my own behaviour. But my adventure with the former banditti was a secret I dared not divulge, or else I really think I should have urged it on the present occasion as an excuse for proposing to allow our prisoners to depart.

At length we were relieved from performing the office of jailors by the arrival of the Portuguese peasant, accompanied by a party, consisting of a magistrate and eight men, from the next village, to whose care we gladly resigned our prisoners, whom we saw marched off, bound as they were; while to the Portuguese peasant we presented the

horse upon which he was mounted, which made him depart with a heart filled with gratitude and happiness.

We now detached the commissary's clerk, Mr. Jackson, and one of the surgeon's servants, home to Campo Mayor with the three horses we had taken from the thieves, and which it was agreed should be divided between me, the surgeon, and the clerk ; while Brady was to retain the watches for himself, and share the money with Mr. Brown's two servants.

But before they set out, the doctor and I tossed up for the choice of horses, and I won the toss, therefore the best horse was ordered to be left in my stable, and the second best in Mr. Brown's, while my clerk had to content himself with the worst animal.

These arrangements being made, and the commissariat clerk having taken his departure with the horses, the remainder of us proceeded on our journey farther into the forest, in the hope of falling in with the hunters, while engaged in their sport ; for it

was still early in the day, although too late for our appointed rendezvous.

But after vainly riding about this immense forest for upwards of two hours, we were on the very point of returning home, and had actually turned our horses heads for that purpose, when we heard a distant shout, and almost directly afterwards the firing of several muskets, towards which we directed our course, and soon fell in with the hunters.

I had now an opportunity of gratifying my curiosity by attending a boar hunt, and a strange sight it is. But as many of my readers may never see one, I will relate in what manner it is conducted.

In the first place, the greater number of people that attend the hunt the better, both on horse and foot, but particularly the latter.

An open space of ground, bordering close upon some thick part of the wood, should be selected for hunting, then a great number of men on foot sent into the wood, on both its sides, or if the wood be too broad, they must be sent into it at a given distance only,

beyond each flank of the open space selected for the hunt ; but they must enter to a considerable depth, and have instructions given them to extend, until the leading man from each flank approaches near to the other, though not in a straight line, but as near as possible in a semicircle, the centre men being the farthest in the wood.

While this is being done, the hunters who are mounted, as also the others who are to fire at the game, place themselves in convenient situations on the open space of ground, though chiefly towards its sides ; so that they may be prepared to fire at the game as it comes out of the wood, without levelling their pieces in the direction of the party employed in beating the forest.

These hunters, who are thus prepared for slaughtering the game, wait in considerable suspense for the signal from the other party, which is not made until the centre men have got to their respective places, when they fire off their muskets, loaded with powder only ; upon which, the whole of the men who are to form the semicircle, begin shouting

loudly, firing muskets and pistols, loaded with blank powder, and gradually advancing towards the open space of ground, the men upon the flanks of the circle merely making a noise at first, until those in the centre come up to them, and the wood is then finally driven by the whole line marching out of it together.

But no sooner is the signal made for the sport, by the centre men firing their muskets, than the hunters watch eagerly for their game; for though the animals may not come out immediately, yet when they are thoroughly disturbed by the shouting and firing within the forest, as also by the advance of the men, they are certain, except sometimes the wild boar, of coming out on the quiet side or open space, where the firing, even when it begins, is not from the front. As to that obstinate animal the boar, he occasionally runs direct through the line of men that are employed in shouting and firing.

All is alacrity and life when the game begins to appear; hares, foxes, and partridges; pigeons, jackdaws, and rabbits; all are game

to the huntsman, who usually has several good fowling pieces near to him, which he hastily fires away at whatever he sees coming from the forest.

But so great is the confusion of those gentlemen who are not habituated to this mode of shooting, that they generally miss their mark; even the stately deer passes by them untouched; while the wolf, fox, or hare, is in no kind of danger from them.

And it even happens, occasionally, that the tables are sadly turned, and the huntsman gets much the worst of it; for the headstrong boar frequently runs at his horse, and if the animal is not quick in escaping out of his way, he rips up his belly, and leaves the poor beast to expire on the plain; while the sturdy savage proceeds forward on his steady course, regardless of the mischief he has done, and neither turning himself to the right or left.

I was extremely interested and pleased with this hunt, for though, owing to the adventure of the morning, we joined the party at a late hour, yet we had the good fortune to be present at almost all

the sport of the day, there having been no spot of the forest beaten before the one they were employed in beating upon our arrival; neither had there been much game killed.

The party was very successful in driving game out of the forest, after we joined it; though far from being as successful in killing the animals. The total number of beasts slaughtered on this day were two wolves, one deer, three foxes, and half a dozen hares; while of birds, of one kind or other, there was about two dozen bagged.

But many laughable circumstances occurred during the sport, where, such was the confusion of the parties, that we often fired single ball at small birds, and small shot at large animals.

One laughable circumstance I particularly recollect, which occurred to an officer of the garrison of Badajoz, and to which I was a close witness. On this occasion, the men employed to drive the animals out of the forest had nearly terminated their labours; that is, the greatest part of them had come out of the wood, though a few still lingered in the centre of their half circle.

Now, the officer to whom I allude, conceiving the forest to be cleared in our front, had mounted his horse, and was riding slowly along by the wood side, with the evident intention of crossing over to his friends on the opposite side of the plain; when, just as he had got right opposite the centre of our front, out dashed a large wild boar from the forest, making in full speed towards his horse, which, becoming alarmed, immediately ran off in his swiftest gallop, taking the same direction as the boar.

It was a ludicrous sight to see this race, the officer having lost his hat at the first starting of his horse, and none of us daring to fire at the boar for fear of killing the other racer. But, like many other excellent sights, it was too good to last long; for, after running the distance of about one hundred yards, the horse completely beat his antagonist, and threw his rider into a quagmire, from which we had some trouble to extricate him, covered with dirt, and half dead with fright.

Yet the most provoking circumstance of this race was, that both the horse and boar

got fairly away ; the latter never to be heard of again, and the former not until two days afterwards, when he was discovered several miles off without either saddle or bridle.

Mr. Brown and I enjoyed this hunt to the moment of its termination, when having partaken of some refreshments under a shady tree, with the officers of the garrison of Badajoz, we re-mounted our jaded horses, and turned their heads towards Campo Mayor, with regret that the sports of the day were over. But on our way home we had the curiosity to call at the village to whence the Spanish banditti were to have been conveyed in the morning, and, to my great satisfaction, I heard that every man of them had regained his freedom.

According to the account given by the inhabitants, they had been rescued by some of their companions on the way to the village, though I suspected they must have got away by bribing the escort.

Some time after this, however, I ascertained the real cause of their escape, which they owed to no one except Brady, aided by their own

courage. The corporal had taken compassion on their forlorn state, and silyly given them back their knives, which he had till then retained in his possession, besides which he gave the captain an old pistol. These brave fellows, as we since learnt, were scarcely out of our sight before they contrived to cut the cords which bound them, when, by brandishing their knives and swearing a few oaths, they drove away the cowardly escort of Portuguese, who fled as fast as their legs could carry them.

CHAPTER XXII.

Ned Clinton visits his friend Glover at Elvas.—Brady makes a Discovery.—The Lovers surprised, and its result.

SHORTLY after the adventures mentioned in the last chapter, I procured leave of absence for a couple of days, and taking Brady with me, mounted as a groom upon the newly acquired charger, rode to Elvas to pay my friend Glover a visit.

I found him very comfortably situated in an excellent billet, with every thing snug around him, and he was extremely glad to see me ; but amidst his other comforts he had provided himself with an article of furniture which is always superfluous in a military life, and generally the forerunner of a thousand plagues,—in short, he had a mistress.

He insisted upon accommodating me and my servant with beds in his house; and as I was not entitled to a billet, I availed myself of the invitation.

My friend's *chere amie* was a French girl, apparently about twenty years of age, tolerably pretty, with good white teeth and large black eyes; a perfect brunette, small in person, but of a good figure, and extremely impudent.

I saw at once that she possessed great influence over my poor friend, who, in fact, she seemed to guide as she pleased; and after we had partaken of refreshments, I had an opportunity of seeing her exhibit herself publicly to the whole town; for having accepted of a proposal made by Glover to join him in a ride before dinner, she accompanied us, riding astride like a man, through the market-place and all the largest streets of Elvas, galloping and capering her horse about like a mad person the whole time of our ride, during which I discovered several officers of the garrison making signs to her, and once detected her in the act of kissing her hand to one of these gentlemen.

At dinner she gave herself a thousand frivolous and affected airs; the partridges that my friend treated me to were pronounced execrable by her, for no other reason that I could discover but because they were sweet, which is contrary to the French mode of cookery; the roast beef was found to be a villainous dish, fit only, according to her expression, *pour les bêtes*, and the part to which she had been helped was accordingly thrown with disdain, to the dog. Nothing was acknowledged by her to be good, except a bit of rotten cheese, which, by the by, was full of mites, and therefore having something of the French *goût*, was called *un bon morceau*, while the good Oporto wine was styled, *le plus détestable vin de pays*.

But what gave me most concern was to see that my friend had lost much of his accustomed gaiety, though I affected not to notice it, and took a favorable opportunity of asking him, in a jocose way, how and where he had picked up his pretty companion? In reply to which he informed me, that she had come into the Peninsula with an officer of the French army,

to whom she was married, and who was unfortunately killed shortly afterwards in an action with the Spaniards; that it had been his own luck to meet with her about a month since at Badajoz, to which town she had proceeded in the hope of obtaining sufficient assistance to carry her home to the centre of France, from a Spanish gentleman who resided at Badajoz, and had been the intimate friend of her husband; but that in consequence of the said gentleman being away from his home at the time of her visit, he (Glover) found her in great distress, insomuch that she was induced to accept of his protection. At the same time he acknowledged to me, that the expense of supporting her was beyond his means, and that he had already not only expended what he had been master of, but was at least fifty dollars in debt, while matters were every day growing worse. "And yet," continued he, "though I plainly perceive that she is an extravagant woman, I am certain she is warmly attached to me; and such is my infatuation, that I cannot separate myself from

her, even though I find my sure ruin must follow our continuing together.”

I said little in reply to this communication, because I was desirous of making enquiries elsewhere, in the hope of adding strength to my arguments before I interested myself with my friend in this delicate affair ; and the little I said was concluded by my observing, with a smile, that he had brought his numerous intrigues to a pretty termination.

Nothing more passed between us upon this subject during the remainder of the day, although the lady continued giving herself numerous airs to the time of my retiring to repose.

On the following morning, Brady came into my room at an earlier hour than usual, when he said he had something particular to communicate, of a most private nature, relative to Mr. Glover, who, added the corporal, is sadly abused.

“What,” exclaimed I, starting up in my bed, “have you to say concerning Mr. Glover? I desire you to tell it immediately.”

“I have come here for that purpose,”

replied Brady, very coolly, "therefore have a little patience, sir, and you shall hear me. But I am sorry," added the corporal, "that what I have to tell concerns your friend, for he's a good-hearted fine spirited young fellow, and deserves to be better treated—but where a brimstone of a prostitute is concerned, who the devil can expect any good? However, to keep to my story," continued Brady, "you must know, sir, that I have been up drinking with Jozé the greater part of the night, and that this Portuguese rogue has completely verified the old proverb, which says, 'when the wine's in, the wit's out;' in fact, he has told me strange things, and I will repeat them to you:—

"In the first place you must know, sir, that Madame Rosa, according to Joze's account, is an egregious impostor. She has imposed herself upon Mr. Glover as the widow of a French officer, who was killed a few months ago, while Jozé recollects her as the mistress of a Portuguese ensign more than two years before that time, since which he has often seen her at a brothel in Lisbon, where she resided

for some months, until forced to quit that house of infamy for an hospital.

But what makes this unfortunate connexion still worse for the honor of Mr. Glover is, that she continues to intrigue, and visits some officer or another of the garrison almost every day; and yet, not content with this degradation, she is even upon the best terms with that vile wretch, Jozé. In fact, from what the fellow has told me, I make no question but he is her real favorite, and that she intrigues with others to make a purse, which she intends to share with him.

“ This vile woman has also been pretty successful; for what with cheating your friend by every possible contrivance, and the profits from her numerous assignations, she has, by this fellow’s account, already lined her purse with cash to the value of upwards of a hundred pounds; and, as he acts in collusion with her, and robs Mr. Glover through thick and thin, by overcharging for whatever he purchases, and making away with all that can be sold, his purse is tolerably well lined also. But,” concluded Brady, “ I trust your

honor won't suffer these rascally doings to continue."

I listened with the utmost astonishment to Brady's narrative, when, having reflected for some little time, I asked him whether he thought we could contrive it so that Mr. Glover should surprise Jozé and Madame Rosa in their guilt? "That might easily be done," replied Brady, "for Jozé had told him they always slept together when his master was away from home; therefore, sir," added the corporal, "Mr. Glover need only pretend he is going to Campo Mayor with you this evening, and both of you ride away together, and when clear out of the town, put your horses up at a public-house on the road, after which return by another way to the shed at the back of the stable, so as to arrive soon after dusk, when I will contrive to let you both in, and to convey you into the loft over it, which communicates with the house, wherein Mr. Glover will best know where to hide; and as soon as you are safely housed I will take my departure, and convey my horse to the public-house where your's will be, and then return on foot

and hide myself in the shed behind the stable till such time as you call for me, after completing the discovery.

“It may, to be sure,” continued Brady, “look rather shabby in me to betray Jozé; but, damn the fellow, his villainy is so black that he deserves no favor; besides, I never asked him to tell me his secrets, nor do I believe he knows he has done so, he was so gloriously drunk; and, curse him,” added he, “to put horns upon a good master, and join in the she-belzebub’s plans to ruin him, is too much—the dog must be punished! However,” concluded Brady, “I have told you the whole tale, and moreover offered you my advice; therefore ’tis best now for me to be off to the stable, ere Jozé recovers from the dose of last night, as, mayhap, he might become suspicious on finding us closeted together.”

Brady now left the room, and I got up and dressed myself as expeditiously as I could. But though I was anxious to communicate Brady’s information to my friend, no opportunity offered until breakfast was over, at

which Madame Rosa presided, exhibiting all the affected airs of a finished coquette. Yet no sooner had we taken breakfast, than I proposed Glover should show me the citadel and fortifications of Elvas; and we shortly afterwards walked out.

I had now ample leisure to tell Glover every particular that Brady had communicated; though, so great was his astonishment, that for some time he could scarcely comprehend me; nor was he at first inclined to credit the story, until upon reflection, a great number of suspicious circumstances in the conduct of his frail one came crowding into his mind, which, but for this information, he would have disregarded. In short, we soon came to a proper understanding, and arranged what measures were to be taken to surprise Madame Rosa and Monsieur Jozé.

Every thing was done on this occasion conformable to Brady's suggestions, though I must not forget to mention that the fair lady affected great concern at learning Glover's intention of quitting her for a single night, and made him positively promise, he would

stay no longer away. As to Jozé, he had been so completely inebriated by Brady on the preceding day, that he did not make his appearance until dinner time.

But this was rather a favourable circumstance, as it afforded a good excuse for the corporal's remaining behind us.

The fair one acted her part to admiration, seeming very loth to let Glover depart, although at the time fixed upon we punctually set off, in spite of all her affected love and sorrow.

We rode out of the town, put up our horses at a public house, returned on foot to the shed behind the stable, and were duly let in by my faithful servant, all exactly as had been arranged.

After this, he made a signal to let us know when Jozé and the fair lady were both below stairs, upon which Glover lost no time in conducting me through a passage into his bed-chamber, where he immediately unlocked the door of a large closet, of which he had purposely taken the key away, and into this

closet we both got, taking care to lock the door withinside.

We were now placed in a snug situation for discovering, without any risk to ourselves, such amours as might take place in the chamber; for the crevices in the closet door were sufficiently large to permit of our seeing what happened in the room, while it was impossible for those in the chamber to discover any thing in the dark closet.

In this state of suspense we remained in the dark for about two hours, when Madame Rosa cheered us by making her appearance with a lighted candle, and after performing all the customary ceremonies used by ladies in retiring to repose, we had the satisfaction of seeing her step into bed, after having placed the candle in a safe situation on the hearth.

Here Glover began to think he had been abused, and that his charmer was as virtuous as pretty. But he was destined to be speedily undeceived, for Jozé, the gallant Jozé, soon afterwards stole softly into the room, and having cautiously locked the door, and closely embraced Madame Rosa, who returned it with

mutual ardour ; he slipt off his clothes, and jumped into the fair arms that were extended to encircle him.

Here I shall draw the curtain on them, my friend having seen enough to satisfy him and justify his bursting open the closet door, when with my assistance, aided by that of Brady and his own batman, who, on hearing the noise we made, forced their way through the chamber door, he succeeded in carrying Monsieur Jozè and Madame Rosa, in spite of their struggles and shrieks, and affected hysterics, into the back yard, where we tried an experiment to cool their ardent love, by giving them both a thorough ducking in the stinking horse-pond.

Here we intended the punishment to end ; but a mob of soldiers, who had been attracted by the noise occasioned through our experiment, after informing themselves of the crimes of the culprits, determined to try upon them an experiment of theirs also, and actually put it in execution upon Monsieur Jozè, by tossing him in a blanket, until he had afforded them abundance of amusement by his strange

exclamations, and the numerous capers he cut, all which had a pretty effect by moonlight; nor did they cease until he became so exhausted, as to be no longer in a condition to amuse them. In fact, it was doubtful for some time afterwards whether he had not received one toss too many. Madame Rosa was somewhat more fortunate, for I sily gave a soldier's wife a dollar to convey her away, and put her to bed.

I remained with my friend Glover all the following day, and lent him one hundred dollars, to retrieve his affairs; by the aid of which, I had the pleasure of seeing my friend extricated from his embarrassments, and, before I left Elvas, he sent every article belonging to Jozé and his prostitute to the houses where those worthless people were living.

CHAPTER XXIII.

*Clinton arrives at Almeida.—Is benighted.—
An odd Adventure in a Catholic Chapel.*

HE who is attached to an army upon service, must not expect long repose.

One night when I was undressing for bed, the brigade orderly book was brought me, on perusing which, I found the brigade was to march on the following day.

For the moment, I felt some regret at the idea of quitting Campo Mayor, having passed a quiet time and experienced much pleasure in it; but the bustle of a military life tends to deaden reflection, and when the time of departure arrived, I quitted it without reluctance.

The brigade marched by detachments, and by different routes, according as the villages

and towns it had to pass could afford accommodation; and it was indispensibly necessary that every man should have a billet, the weather being cold and wet, and the season that of Christmas.

After a fatiguing march, we arrived at Almeida, which was the place of our destination. But I soon found that the end of the march was the beginning of my labours, for although Almeida was the head-quarters of the brigade, yet the regiments comprising it were so scattered, that my duties became ten times greater than they had hitherto been.

I now had full occupation for both my chargers, usually being on horseback the greater portion of each day, employed in providing for and conveying rations to the various stations, But activity best agrees with man. We had scarcely a sick person amongst us, whilst at Campo Mayor, in the midst of ease and luxury, the hospitals were crowded.

I was now again in the neighbourhood of my companions of the Hercules; yet however pleasant this was in other respects, it often

deprived me of Brady's services, who was too frequently on visits to his old patrons. On one of these occasions I happened to be detained in the evening at a village, and on my way home in the dark lost my road. In this unpleasant situation I continued riding about for several hours, until my attention was attracted by the sound of a church bell, very near to me, ringing for midnight prayers, and which continued its noise, sufficiently long to guide me to the small church, or rather chapel, from whence it issued.

Not perceiving any house near to this place of worship, I dismounted, and tied my horse to a gate, with the intention of entering the chapel, and getting the bell-ringer to direct me to some village or house where I could remain till day-light; but, when in the very act of entering the chapel door, I was greatly astonished at the sound of a remarkable shrill voice, coming as it were from the roof of the building, and crying out in plain English, "For the love of God, take me down! I shall be killed if you don't take me down! I am almost at the top of the church! Oh, take me

down!" While this strange appeal was making from above, I could also hear much half smothered laughter in a corner not far remote from me; but not knowing what to do or say, I kept myself silent, and removed my station just outside of the door, so that I might avoid detection if any of the party came suddenly from the chapel. During the whole of this time, the same words continued to be vociferated, though the sound no longer came from above, but seemed to proceed from a voice upon a level with the floor, which made the cry, "I am almost at the top of the church; oh, take me down!" sound so truly ridiculous, that it was barely possible to refrain from bursting into loud laughter.

The cries of this sufferer gradually became fainter, till at length after making a strong appeal to heaven to have mercy on his sins, there was heard a noise upon the stone floor, like that of a person with iron shod boots having jumped or fallen from a small height upon the pavement; and, presently afterwards, an officer in the British uniform came out of the chapel, puffing and blowing, as if in great

trepidation, and passed near where I was without observing me ; then taking a contrary direction to where my horse was tied, did not discover it.

Shortly afterwards, a party of five men made their appearance from the chapel, who were too busily employed in talking and laughing to discover me, though to my surprise I immediately recognised the voices of Corporal Brady and Lieut. Wright amongst them. It was now my turn to occasion surprise, which I did to a considerable degree, on discovering myself to this party, which consisted of Lieutenants Cope and Wright, Ensign O'Flaherty, James Brady, and another servant.

On our way to the village, my friend Wright informed me of the particulars of the adventure they had just achieved, by which it appeared that the chapel I had visited stood on the road side, about a quarter of a mile from Lieut. Cope's billet, which was about a mile from the village, and at which Mr. Wright messed.

Now Wright, to use his own language, feeling conscious of his own negligence respecting

the performance of religious duties, conceived it would be making some atonement if he set other people to pray, and having this design in view, he had made it a point every night, on his way home from Mr. Cope's, which usually was about midnight, to exercise himself for ten or fifteen minutes by ringing the bell of this chapel, the door of which he had broken open for this pious purpose.

He said he had fallen into this practice, because many Roman Catholics had assured him (while Brady, who was brought up to that persuasion, was ready to take his oath to the custom) that whenever strict Catholics hear the church bell at midnight sounding for prayers, they lose no time in falling upon their knees, in which holy posture they remain, until a certain number of beads are told by them, and a certain portion of prayers are repeated.

Thus, by this happy device, my worthy friend Wright, though no saint himself, probably caused more prayers to be said within the given time, than one half of the crowd of saints enumerated in the Portuguese calendar.

But it so happened, that Ensign Thick, a young officer lately arrived from England, either actuated by jealousy, or else conceiving it to be a good frolic, begged to accompany Mr. Wright in his next visit to the chapel, that he might take a spell at ringing the good people to prayers.

This request was readily acceded to; for Wright, who loved a joke, no matter whether at the expence of an ensign or a saint, immediately proposed some fun to himself on this occasion.

Accordingly, this being the night for the frolic, Brady and the other servant were sent in advance to the chapel, with instructions to hide themselves in the belfry, and at a given signal, when the ensign had hold of the bell-rope, to run him up in the aisle of the chapel to the distance of ten or twelve feet, but on the light being blown out, which was to happen at the moment after his elevation, they were to lower him down, though in a gentle and imperceptible manner, until his feet would reach within a foot or two of the pavement,

when they were to fasten the rope above, and remain silent till they were called for.

All this took place precisely as it was intended, whilst I chanced to reach the chapel door just after the candle had been put out, and the three officers had hid themselves in a corner, where, although I overheard some portion of their nearly smothered laughter, there could be no probability of Mr. Thick hearing them, suspended as he was, and bawling aloud for assistance.

To this gentleman, if he could reflect at all, it must have appeared that the candle went out accidentally, or else that the lantern had been taken away by his companions, who of course he would suppose to be gone home.

As to the accident of his being suspended in the air, he could only suppose it to have arisen from the rope catching either upon a nail or something else above, while Brady so settled things in the belfry, that the very act of his examining that place next day would have satisfied him it must have proceeded from some such cause.

CHAPTER XXIV.

A novel Invention.—An Escape of two Spaniards.—Brady's Stratagem to save them.

THE French army were now collecting very fast in our front, and in many places their picquets were almost close to our's, whilst in other quarters we were divided by the small but rapid river, Agueda.

One day when I was riding to one of our frontier villages, situated near the banks of the river in question, accompanied by Brady, I came to an angle of the road which turns close to the Agueda, over which at that spot there is an odd sort of invention for passing the river by one or two persons at a time. A strong rope is passed across it, the ends of which are fastened to two stakes driven into

the banks at a sufficient height to keep the rope suspended a few feet above the water ; on this cord a wicker basket, large enough to admit of two persons, is siung by two strong handles, which the cord passes through, thus the persons desirous of crossing the river have only to get into the basket, and then pull the rope, in a gradual way, until they are safely lodged, in the basket, on the opposite side of the river.

As we approached towards this place, we were surprised by hearing people shout, and shortly afterwards several muskets were fired, on which we quickened our pace, and soon discovered the cause of this disturbance.

A couple of Spanish prisoners had made their escape from the French garrison at Saint Felices, a town two leagues distant ; but these poor fellows finding the bridges on the Spanish side of the Agueda were guarded by the French, and that the river was too much swollen to admit of its being forded, whilst it was too full of rocks and too rapid to be swam over, had been obliged to hide themselves in the woods. In the mean time, the

French garrison were upon the alert after them, and had detached so many parties to scour the country, in the direction of the Agueda, that there remained no hope for them of continuing long undiscovered in the wood, which several parties of French soldiers were beating within their hearing.

In this desperate situation, for they were sensible they must suffer an ignominious death if taken by the French, they came to the resolution of making a bold push for the Agueda, which luckily was not more than three or four hundred yards from the edge of the wood where they were hid. They had been informed of the singular contrivance for passing the river, and having succeeded in stealing to the edge of the wood, they suddenly ran from it with their utmost speed towards the passage; but here they were exposed to great danger, not less than twenty shots being fired at them from the French picquet stationed at the top of the hill opposite to us. Fortunately none of these shots took effect, and the poor Spaniards came running down the rocky precipice, from the top of the hill where the French

picquet was stationed, at the imminent risk of being dashed to pieces, besides being exposed to the fire of the French picquet, and still greater danger from the massy stones rolled after them by these savage foes.

But Providence favored them, and they reached the side of the river in safety, close to where the rope passed, when, to their great dismay, they discovered the basket was not on their side.

We saw the distress of these poor wretches, who sat crouched under a projecting rock, which sheltered them from their rancorous foes. Yet what were we to do?—We were upon the top of one hill, and the French picquet on the top of the opposite one, while their intended victims were upon their side of the river. We saw no means of saving them, for if they remained there till night, all would be over; the French would descend the hill in the dark, and kill or take them.

Yet we soon found that their blood-thirsty foes grudged them even this short reprieve, for a party of four French soldiers were discovered by us, creeping along under the rocks, with the

design of getting into a situation from which they might shoot the poor fellows; but their errand was soon spoilt, for the officer commanding our picquet immediately detached a few skilful riflemen to a place opposite to this party, when, after exchanging a few shots with them, three of the Frenchmen were glad to escape back, leaving their comrade dead behind them. But this was merely averting the blow; our object was to save the lives of the two Spaniards, and no person could discover how that object could be achieved.

At last Corporal Brady, who was never at a loss for a stratagem, and whose courage was always found equal to the occasion, undertook to extricate them from their perilous situation.

He collected a number of the skins of sheep and bullocks, which happened to be left near the picquet-house, and nailed them to the top of an old wine cask, in such a manner that they hung down for about the distance of four feet towards the ground the whole way round it whenever the top of the barrel was elevated upon any thing high enough to allow of their doing so.

Having completed so much of his task, he next procured a hoop, somewhat less in circle than the top of the cask; this hoop he passed the skins through which hung down from the cask top, drawing the hoop upwards till within two or three inches of the barrel top; having done this, he fastened the hoop to the skins, so that it could not slip down, and then cut various holes, each about two inches square, right through the whole of the skins between the hoop and the barrel top; he also slit the skins through on each side from the hoop to the bottom, but not exactly in a line with each other, yet so that a rope could pass through them without leaving any opening.

Thus, having completed his armour, he got under it to try how it would answer; and when he stood up with the barrel top on his head, and the skins over it, and hanging four feet towards the ground (besides the odd appearance of the little windows, between the hoop and the barrel top, but so slanting inwards that no shot from above could touch them), we all at once saw that the invention

would answer, and were lost in admiration of the old soldier's acuteness,

But Brady, who cared nothing about admiration, was for finishing the adventure off-hand; accordingly, after taking a glass of cordial from the picquet officer's bottle, away he went, carrying his armour upon his back, till having descended some distance down the hill, and apprehending the French would soon fire upon him, he put it on, or, more properly speaking, he got under it.

Meantime, the lieutenant of our picquet stationed all his prime shots behind the rocks, opposite to Brady's place of passage, and the French picquet shortly opened its fire upon Brady's armour, with much the same effect as if firing at a wall, while the brave fellow proceeded slowly but steadily down the hill, regardless of the bullets which were hitting his hides, and flying thick about him.

He reached the wicker basket in safety, and passed lowly over the river in it, amidst showers of balls; then making signs to the Spaniards to remain quiet, he deliberately

got out of the basket, walked to where they were, took one of them under his armour, and returned to the basket, in which he seated his guest on one side of the rope, and himself on the other. Thus he returned in triumph, placed the grateful Spaniard in safety behind some rocks, and went back for his companion. Again he passed the river amidst showers of bullets, and again he returned in triumph; but his escape on this last occasion was a narrow one, for at the moment he reached the Portuguese shore, a bullet cut the passage cord asunder.

The Spaniards remained under the cover of the rocks until dusk, when they ascended the hill, grateful and happy. As to Brady, he rode away with me soon after effecting this exploit, pleased at what he had done, though considering it no more than an ordinary occurrence.

Under the Roman government of ancient days, the brave fellow for this exploit might have claimed two civic crowns, for he saved the lives of two citizens; while under a

military government of the present times, he would be entitled to wear a cross, or order of some sort, as a reward for his distinguished courage ; but with us he is entitled to no extra reward.

CHAPTER XXV.

Influence of a Padre.—Disputes with an Officer.—His Treachery.

IN those kingdoms where priestcraft holds supremacy, the minds of the people are debased in proportion to that influence exercised over them; for time and experience, those infallible lanterns of truth, have always shown, that where the church reigns in full plenitude of power, the people are poor, ignorant, and miserable, often degraded to a state of bodily slavery, and never possessing freedom of soul. And the enlightened patriot has justly acknowledged that a tolerating kingdom is amply repaid, while a religious government is ever cursed with poverty and persecution.

When serving in the Spanish peninsula, I had many opportunities of witnessing the truth of

these remarks, but one was so glaringly striking that I shall relate it.

Being detained once by the commissariat business for several hours at Barbar-del-Puerco, I was invited by Sir Sidney B——, a man of the greatest urbanity of manners, long known as the distinguished chief of our rifle soldiers, and who commanded the troops at this place, to partake of his dinner, at which there were present, besides several officers of his corps, a priest of that neighbourhood, and a Spanish captain, who, contrary to the custom of that nation, had risen from being a common soldier, and owed his elevation solely to his courage and military talents.

The conversation after dinner turned upon the state of Spain, when the captain, zealous for the honour of his native country, and perhaps a little elevated with wine, observed that the Spanish population laboured under several severe grievances, of a nature to smother all energy of character. “For instance,” continued he, “even in the midst of this arduous war, there is no adequate reward or encouragement held out to stimulate the sol-

dier to deeds of glory, and though I am a solitary instance to the contrary, he knows that he never can rise in his profession, unless he is born of a noble family. Thus, the proper nature of nobility is forgotten, while birth, which is accidental, yet never to be altered, has honors and rewards thrust upon it; but distinguished deeds—deeds of virtue and of glory; the essence of true grandeur, and the best foundation for nobility, go unrequited and neglected. And, alas!” added the captain, after a short pause, “bad as it is, this evil is not the greatest we suffer under. Our degradation chiefly arises from the influence of the church.”

“What!” exclaimed the *padré*, interrupting him, his eyes flashing, and his lips quivering with rage as he spoke, “does a wretch like you presume to attribute the degradation of the state to the influence possessed by the holy church? Her power must be sunk indeed; it must be at the lowest ebb, if this language is to be used with impunity in the presence of one of her ministers. And who dares make use of it?—An ungrateful

wretch! one for whose advancement the wise custom of ages has been reversed. This is the fruit of relaxation in the higher orders; this comes of admitting the rabble into office; but learn, sir, it shall be tolerated no longer; we know you now, and if the holy church possesses power, prepare yourself to feel it."

The captain was a brave man, of distinguished courage, but he shuddered at the language of the priest, which speedily drove away his national enthusiasm, and doubtless filled his mind with dread of the Inquisition and the holy Roman church.

He made the best apology he was able to make to the *padré*, who received it unwillingly and in a supercilious manner; but we all interested ourselves for the captain, in consequence of which the priest promised us the matter should end here, and that he would make no representation of it to a higher quarter.

That very evening the priest disappeared, and in the dead of the night, the French from an adjacent garrison, made an attempt to surprise the British troops at *Barbar-del-Puerco*.

They were repulsed with loss and disgrace; yet a few brave Englishmen were killed, and amongst them was poor Mercer, one of the lieutenants who had dined with us.

It was afterwards ascertained, from undoubted authority, that this rascally *padré* was in the French interest, and after partaking of the English hospitality, he had immediately gone over to the French garrison with the information that caused the attack to be made on the British troops.

CHAP XXVI.

A Mistake made by Brady.—The Moors and Portuguese contrasted.—Clinton proceeds to Lisbon.

As the spring advanced, the French army increased fast in numbers, and occasional skirmishes took place between the out-posts. But I was not destined to witness the approaching campaign, as about this time I received orders to proceed to Lisbon, as an evidence upon the trial of a commissary-general, who was to be brought before a general court-martial on several charges of peculation.

I was consequently relieved in my duties with the brigade to which I had been attached ever since I went to Campo Mayor, and was appointed a commissary.

Brady, though no longer an effective sol-

dier, appeared extremely mortified at quitting the frontier without first having a brush with the enemy, frequently exclaiming, that, by *Jasus!* it was very provoking to march away before he saw a few Frenchmen's wigs on the green!

We had a delightful journey the whole way from Almeida to Lisbon, and travelled at an easy rate, according to a route obtained from the adjutant-general. Our billet was generally a good one, as the towns and villages where we halted were usually free from troops, and Brady, like a thorough old soldier, always entered the place somewhat before me, where, by over-rating my rank (probably by leaving out the word commissary and merely using that of general), he invariably contrived to procure better quarters than I was entitled to.

Our third day's march terminated at a miserable little village, where the accommodation at my billet, though the best in the place, was so scanty that Brady and my Portuguese servant must have gone without a bed, had I not consented to their sleeping in a second bed

that stood in my chamber. I awoke before day-light on the following morning, and being anxious to proceed on our journey, called to Brady to look out of the window and inform me if it was day-break yet. Accordingly, he got up and went, as he supposed, to the French window, which he knew opened as low as the floor of the chamber, but on the outside; here having fixed himself, by leaning on the side frame, he bent his body forward, as he imagined out of the window, and pronounced that there was no sign of day-light, all being dark as pitch. "Well," said I, "Brady," feeling impatient, "but can't you smell the fragrance of the morning air?" "Yes, by Jasus! and I do," replied he quickly, "and it scents very strongly—it smells, your honor, just like a *chease*!" At this moment the chamber door opened, and the Portuguese, who had previously left our room to visit the stable, appeared with a light in his hand, when to my great surprise and amusement, I beheld my faithful servant in the most ludicrous of attitudes; one of his hands grasped the frame of a cupboard, on the side opposite

its door, which stood wide open; his body bent gently forward from his hips, in the manner of a person looking straight down from the top of a lofty parapet wall; while, to complete the picture, his nose was immediately over, and almost touching, a piece of rotten cheese standing on a shelf in the cupboard. It must be supposed, that after the light appeared, he did not remain long in this position; but one glance of him in this ridiculous attitude, was quite sufficient to fix the circumstance firmly on my memory.

I had ample leisure on this journey for viewing whatever was remarkable, in a more minute manner than on former marches, and I felt much gratification from examining the ruined fortifications scattered about this country, where it is impossible for the contemplative-minded traveller to view the numerous old Moorish castles, without reflecting on the past colossal power of the Mahometans on this European peninsula. It is here that the struggles between the followers of Mahomet and those of Christ were carried on with extreme bitterness for several ages, deluging the fine soil

blood of each other! It is here that Moorish ferocity long reigned triumphant, and crowds of Christian slaves passed away their dreary days, toiling in chains for the followers of Mahomet. It is here that the man who happened to be circumcised deemed it a meritorious act to butcher his uncircumcised brother; while, in the following age, the uncircumcised barbarian roasted his brother man alive! And, alas! it is here, even on this very spot, that the Christian forgot the mild precepts of his leader and established the Inquisition—that cursed institution! which far exceeds all former inventions of mankind for the practice of cruelty and injustice.

But the mind which begins by seeking pleasure from the contemplation of past times, turns with abhorrence from the recollection of religious bigotry, no matter of what persuasion.

On my way to Lisbon, I had an opportunity of viewing a portion of the celebrated military lines then being constructed, and which soon afterwards enabled the British soldier to astonish all Europe, by bringing that im-

mense French army, intended for the conquest of Portugal, to a full halt, even within sight of Lisbon; and then recoiling upon that same army, and, like the British bull-dog, following it till the enemy was destroyed.

But this is not more than the British soldier will ever be found to do, when led by a man of courage, and military talents: he has proved it for ages. Look to Cressy, Agincourt, Blenheim, and other battles, too numerous to name, and it will be found that to his undaunted courage every victory is due.

CHAPTER XXVII.

History of a Portuguese Nobleman.

IT was now my luck to be quartered upon a Portuguese nobleman, said to be as depraved in mind as he was deformed in body: His height was about four feet, of which his head constituted one fourth part. He had a large hunch upon his back, and a pair of very bandy legs, thin as broom-sticks, while his thighs were short, out of all proportion, and scarcely thicker than his legs; he had little or no neck, his head resting upon his breast; his face was frightfully ugly, and what few straggling teeth he had were black as ink,

Amongst other misfortunes, it had been this nobleman's, from his first introduction into life, to fancy every woman in love with him with whom he happened to converse, and this

vanity, added to the freedoms he attempted to take with various females, and his boasting of favours he never received from others, had led him into a thousand scrapes, all terminating in his lordships disgrace.

He had frequently been horsewhipped, and often ducked ; he had been slushed in the cook's grease, and suffered from various other tricks in the kitchen ; he had been exposed on lofty shelves, and fastened upon pins against the walls ; in a word, he had suffered every kind of personal disgrace, that the parties could inflict upon such an object, without destroying him ; and yet no good effect had been produced by these experiments, so completely was his lordship dead to shame. But the law, which had several times punished him by pecuniary penalties for defamation of characters, and seducing women he scarcely knew, had latterly taught this nobleman to be something more cautious in his conduct..

Here, in justice to the fair sex, it ought to be observed, that even his lordship's coronet and moderate patrimony (for he was far from

rich), had failed in procuring him a wife from amongst the genteel class in life; but his lordship, to use a vulgar saying (if I may be allowed to apply it to a man who never possessed any thing much like a nose), had just before my arrival at Lisbon, cut off his nose to spite his face.

The fact is, that in despair of doing better, and tormented by her entreaties and complaints, for she wished to visit with his lordship, of whom she affected to be jealous, he had married his mistress; a woman taken from the lowest walk in life, who had lived with him for some years, but had no family to inherit the honours of the title.

Yet the attainment of a favorite object does not always produce the desired effect; and it happened so upon this occasion, where not only the lady was disappointed of admittance into fashionable society, but even his lordship was excluded, or, what came to the same thing, he was no longer invited to the houses of genteel or respectable people. This mutual disappointment created much bickering at home, and caused the noble couple to live

more unhappily than before their marriage, for her ladyship, who had now attained her grand object, was less disposed to attend to his lordship's complaints than formerly, while those complaints were become heavier and more numerous. And what added to his lordship's domestic misery, and made him, if possible, more ridiculous in the eyes of the world than before, was the conduct of his own brother and sister; to whom, in extenuation of their behaviour, it must be acknowledged he never had been a kind brother, but for many years had behaved towards them with spiteful illiberality.

From prudential motives they had hitherto smothered their resentment at this ungenerous treatment, for they well knew from the character of their noble relative, that if they irritated him, he would resort to any desperate measure to be revenged upon them; and they were fearful while he remained a bachelor, that this revenge might be shewn by his marrying some female already in the family way; or who, at all events, might father

a male child upon his lordship, and thus destroy the brother's hopes of succeeding to the family title.

But this marriage of his to a woman with whom he had lived for years, without issue, and who was now beyond the usual age of child-bearing, completely removed all their fears, and determined them to revenge themselves upon his lordship, which they did in the following manner.

It happened that a female servant, with whom his lordship had been too familiar some years before, had been brought to bed of a son at that time, which, in consequence of his refusing to provide for it, she had regularly sworn to the noble lord, who was compelled to pay the penalty usual on such an occasion ; though he troubled himself no more with either the mother or infant, further than by always declaring that it was not his brat. But, as ill-luck would have it, this unfortunate child was born a cripple, and daily grew more like his lordship ; he had the same shaped hunch upon his back, a similar enormous large

head, thin crooked legs and thighs, and a flat nose ; in short, such was the likeness they bore to each other, that any dispassionate person, who had seen his lordship and the child, would not hesitate at pronouncing it must be his offspring.

Now the brother and sister, on writing to congratulate his lordship upon his marriage, took the same opportunity of soliciting his attention to this poor cripple of a child, who they represented as being very badly taken care of, insomuch that they were fearful the boy would die, unless he was better treated. They said it was a disgrace upon their family, and upon his lordship in particular, to allow his son and only child, the very image too of himself, to be brought up by the parish ; and they conjured him, both for his own honour and the sake of humanity, to take charge of and provide for his offspring in a becoming manner, otherwise, they intimated, they should feel it a duty incumbent on them, for the honour of their family, to take the poor boy under their joint protection.

This letter irritated his lordship to the utmost pitch of violence, and he cursed them both for their impertinent interference in his affairs.

At this conduct of his lordships' they affected to be extremely angry; talked loudly, on every occasion, of their brother's unnatural behaviour towards his child; and, at length, under the cloak of charity, actually took the deformed brat under their joint protection, and put it to a decent school; and not content with having offered this gross insult to a brother, one or the other of them is constantly taking the child from school, for the purpose of showing it about as much as possible amongst their acquaintance, both by taking it in the carriage with them on the various visits they make, and by exhibiting it at their own houses to every visitor.

This affair had enraged his lordship to an extreme pitch of fury at the time I was billeted upon him, which made him shun society; therefore I had no opportunity of knowing him or his lady, who was almost as

furious as her noble partner, only with this variation, that a great portion of her anger was directed against his lordship, for his incontinence and want of virtue, as this fair bride called it.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

Secrets of a Profession.—An easy Mode of making a large Fortune.

THE commissary-general's trial, for which I had lost my appointment with the brigade on the frontiers of Portugal, and been put to the trouble of taking a march of sixteen days, never took place, as that gentleman preferred sacrificing his commission, without undergoing the ordeal of standing a prisoner before a general court-martial; and he consequently disappeared with the profitable fruits of his speculations, which, it was supposed, had netted him, at least, thirty thousand pounds.

It might be asked here, by those who never served with an army in the field, how it was possible for any commissary, subordinate to the chief commissary-general, to defraud

the British Government to such an enormous extent? And the reply would be (if given with candour), that almost every commissary who served with the army in the Spanish peninsula could have done the same thing as this gentlemen did, if he had been so inclined.

But this subject is far too delicate for a commissary to touch upon ; for no man of common sense can think of exposing the mysteries of his own profession,—besides, was I to forget myself so much, the whole tribe of commissaries would be upon my back, and soon crush me to ruin under the heavy burden.

Yet that part of our business which is not included amongst its mysteries, I may satisfy the public curiosity by mentioning ; and this information will be amply sufficient to shew, that a commissary on service may rapidly realize a princely fortune, even though the articles purchased by him for the troops are good, the rations excellent, and his accounts with the public apparently correct.

To explain this it will be necessary to mention, that the purchases made in a country

where an English army is campaigning, are paid for by bills upon the British treasury, which sometimes are made payable in the capital of that country, and on other occasions only at the English treasury. The consequences arising from which are, that the farmer, or other country person, who has sold his cattle, forage, bread, or wine to the English commissary, perhaps too by compulsion from the magistrates of his neighbourhood, becomes uneasy about the purchase money; for the bit of paper given to him in exchange for his product, appears to him of no more value than the slips of paper he has received on former occasions from the French and other governments; nor does it suit him to quit his home, and leave his family unprotected in the vicinity of foreign troops, that he may visit the capital to enquire about his paper; while, on the other hand, he knows no one going to the seat of government with whom he dare trust his bill.

So circumstanced, and hearing numerous reports injurious to the value of his bill, which are mostly set afloat by those who purpose buying it, and their emissaries, and then spread

wider through the fears of those who hold the bills, the poor farmer is glad to listen to any offer for disposing of his, and thinks himself well off if he obtains half the sum for which it is drawn; though, in the early part of the campaign in Portugal, I rather think the original possessor of a bill seldom got more than one third of its value.

In this manner the trader in bills realizes an immense profit, doubling or trebling the capital employed at every transaction; while, from the facility he possesses of conveying his bills to the seat of government and immediately having his money sent him in return for them, he is enabled to turn his property very frequently, and to become rich in a short space of time.

Having so fully explained this easy mode of realizing a fortune, I feel confident I need make no apology for not entering into any other particulars, by doing which I might inadvertently touch upon the sacred mysteries of my profession, and thereby do myself, and perhaps the profession at large, an irreparable injury.

Whether the gentleman, upon whose intended trial I had been summoned to Lisbon

as a witness, had contented himself by making his thirty thousand pounds in this easy manner, or had resorted to more unjustifiable ways, I never learnt, because he never deigned to explain his conduct, and it was not the business of other people in our profession to promulgate what they knew, or fancied they knew, on this occasion. It is sufficient that he decamped with all his treasure, to the great joy of every officer appointed to sit on the general court-martial, at being spared the trouble of investigating his tedious accounts; and also to the no smaller joy of the witnesses, at being spared attending the court-martial and giving their unwilling evidence.

CHAPTER XXIX.

Corporal Brady introduces Father Murphy O'Carroll. — The Priest tries to convert Clinton.

THE second morning after my arrival at Lisbon, Brady surprised me by entering my room, while I was at breakfast, accompanied by a tall, powerful-built, middle-aged man, clothed in the garb of a Romish priest, whom he introduced to me, without ceremony, as Father Murphy O'Carroll, a worthy, honorable countryman of his, and a Portuguese priest and confessor to boot.

I begged the holy father to sit down, and invited him to partake of my breakfast, which he did without the smallest hesitation, and with an astonishing good appetite, eating sufficient for any two men, and drinking in proportion..

The holy father scarcely spoke a word until the meal was over, when, having deliberately crossed his forehead and told over his beads, he began preaching to me, in the broad Irish brogue, about the only true religion; but finding that his preaching worked no good effect, he again crossed himself, told over his beads, and expressed his sorrow at my being a heretic, together with his pious intention of invoking those blessed saints, Dominick and Patrick, to work my conversion.

He now went away, after promising me his company to dinner, to which meal I invited him to give Brady pleasure, and the holy father accepted the invitation, as he declared, solely in the hope that the two blessed saints he meant to invoke, would inspire him with a sufficiency of fervent zeal and holy grace to enable him to effect the salvation of an unfortunate heretic. Such was the reverend priests' zeal that, however deep and earnest he had been engaged in prayer, he forgot not the dinner hour: but came back a short time before the meal was ready, and went through his usual grimaces ere we commenced, which Brady, in

compliment to his countryman, the father confessor, had taken care should be the best he could provide, while, as a just return for the corporal's attention, the reverend gentleman eat enormously, and drank like a fish. He was poor company during the dinner, though he fully made up for lost time at the dessert, when the holy father gradually got on in conversation, until being well warmed with wine, he talked enough for a dozen men; and, to do him justice, his arguments were good, and his general conversation witty; in fact, when stripped of the assumed cant and craft of his order, which the wine and confidence in his safety with me, soon effected, he was, in spite of his broad Irish brogue and his priestly robe, a most excellent companion, and gave some of the drollest excuses for drinking that could be imagined. Amongst many others, I recollect that on taking a fresh bumper of wine, he would sometimes quote one of Paul's epistles to Timothy, wherein Timothy is recommended to drink wine for the body's good.

But when Father Murphy O'Carroll got

thoroughly warmed by the drink, he opened his heart with candour, telling me that Lisbon was the best place in the world for intrigues, and that his profession enabled him to enjoy any pretty girl he fancied. "For we priests," said he, "have only to get possession of the conscience, and the body and worldly wealth are sure to be at our disposal. And, by the holy Saint Patrick!" continued the father, "every man amongst us has the keeping of abundance of pretty girls' consciences, inso-much that we are very fastidious when we can't please ourselves from the lambs in our own flocks, though sometimes it does happen that we fancy one from another fold, and then her father confessor shams sickness, that his brother priest may enjoy and confess her."

In this manner the priest opened his heart, and acknowledged his duplicity, eventually concluding his confession, by offering to procure me an extensive variety of pretty girls, either from amongst the nuns, or the population at large. Yet what rendered this scene truly diverting was, that the father, though drunk (not being able to divest himself of the

long established cant of his ministry), made these offers to me under the plea of religion, declaring he would not procure me a single girl, without first invoking Saint Dominick and Saint Patrick to make her the channel for purging away my heresies, and bringing me to the only true faith.

If the tempting offers of Father Murphy O'Carroll were not sufficient to seduce a young man from the path of virtue, I know not what temptation could avail with him; for my part, as I am not at confession, I see no necessity for relating how I behaved, or what I did. However, one thing I had to regret, which was, that I almost entirely lost the services of James Brady while I remained at Lisbon, for he was perpetually away with his countryman, the Roman Catholic priest; but whether at confession or not, I can't undertake to say; though, from his sleeping out every night, and my happening to see him come out of a female convent early one morning, I acknowledge I was once illiberal enough to suspect that his countryman, the priest, assisted him in the character of a pimp.

CHAPTER XXX.

Father Murphy O'Carroll and Ned Clinton dine at Mother Bunker's.—A Quarrel, and Fight.

BRADY, who was quite at home at Lisbon, and loved to patronize his country people, recommended Mother Bunker to my notice, who kept an excellent ordinary and boarding-house, near the fish-market, at which Lieutenant Wright, and several officers of his regiment, resided during their stay in this town.

One day I took the reverend father to dine at Mother Bunker's. The party consisted of two English merchant captains, the holy father, myself, and Mother Bunker, together with a lieutenant and a purser in the royal navy, and their guests, two Portugese surgeons, who had been invited to dinner by

these naval gentlemen, for the express purpose of affording some diversion.

The dinner past over quietly enough, although it was evident the surgeons were much nettled, in turn, at various malicious remarks, which were made purposely to irritate them against each other; and also at the toasts occasionally given to one or other, at the expense of his antagonist. But while the cloth was being removed, it happened that Mother Bunker, at the recommendation of my friend, the holy father, was induced to swallow a glass of brandy to settle her stomach, which unfortunately, added to the strong liquors previously imbibed, proved too much for her, and she, poor soul! fell from her chair, apparently in a state of strangulation. The holy father, who sat next her, lost no more time than was absolutely necessary for finishing his brandy, ere he picked her up, and seated her in a chair, wherein one of his brawny fists held her fast, while with the other hand he applied a profusion of water to her face and bosom. Meantime the surgeons, who had approached her on either

side, seized one of her hands each, and, with due solemnity, commenced an examination of her pulse ; when, after taking time for mature consideration, the eldest doctor, addressing the priest, said the case bordered upon apoplexy, and it was requisite that the patient should be immediately bled. The other doctor hastily contradicted this opinion, pronouncing that this case was not one of an apoplectic nature, and that bleeding would be improper, and only tend to weaken a constitution already too much debilitated. At this daring contradiction, the first doctor became furious, and declared, with an oath, that such ignorant pretenders as his antagonist were the ruin of the profession, and the murderers of their patients. This was too much to be borne ; accordingly, the younger surgeon, totally regardless of the patient, whose pulse he let go, instantly seized his enemy with both hands, by the wig and ear, nor did the old professor lose a moment in returning the compliment, by catching hold of his antagonist by the throat and nose.

While the medical gentlemen were engaged in this indecent way, with their heads bent forwards over Mother Bunker's lap, and almost touching her knees, kind Nature came to that lady's relief, though probably assisted by the struggles of the rival surgeons, which must have shaken her frame; but be that how it may, Nature exerted herself very opportunely for the patient, though not at all to the satisfaction of the enraged sons of Galen.

The plain unadorned fact is, that Nature, without giving the least intimation of such a kind relief by any sort of symptom, suddenly caused Mother Bunker to discharge the whole heterogenous contents of an overloaded stomach, every part of which fell upon the heads and hands of the two doctors in so equal a manner, that it would have been difficult to decide which received the largest share. But, strange to tell, even this powerful inundation for a time failed in disengaging the antagonists from each other's grasp, and several of our party availed themselves of this opportunity for discharging the dirty contents of their water glasses upon the two heads that were

already covered over with filth; though, it should be observed, this was done with the apparent intention of throwing it upon Mother Bunker's neck and breast.

At length the enraged combatants were parted, and escorted into separate chambers, where they purified themselves; while a servant was despatched to their houses to procure a change of those articles of clothing which had been daubed in the fray. As for poor Mother Bunker, to acknowledge the truth, she was too ill from the effects of liquor to sit up, and therefore was carried to bed.

This adventure afforded considerable merriment to the remainder of our party, and made us eager to get the rival surgeons back to the table, in the hope of their creating more sport; but the united efforts of their friends, the naval lieutenant and purser, failed in reconciling them, and we despaired of their rejoining us, until my guest, the priest, undertook to exert his fatherly persuasions, which soon had the desired effect, and he brought the men of physic back to us, after having reconciled them together.

They were rather shy at first, but we so effectually plied them with wine that their reserve wore away, and they became extremely facetious, when the lieutenant, who had duly prepared the ladies for the occasion, introduced several women of easy virtue into the company, and seated them on each side of the two doctors.

In this sociable manner we continued drinking for some time longer, until the wine began to operate on the men of physic, and a fresh dispute arose between them, which the ladies took advantage of, and, under the pretence of soothing their anger, contrived to blacken the cheeks of both their faces completely over with burnt cork; and what made the scene really diverting was, that each party supposing his antagonist alone to be in this ridiculous plight, was delighted, and made various sly gestures of approbation. We enjoyed much fun and laughter before the dispute came to a crisis, which it did by the eldest son of Æsculapius knocking down his antagonist by a well-placed blow upon the nose, which

set that member bleeding profusely; but the younger doctor was not long without revenge, for one of the girls pushed his antagonist over him while he lay sprawling and bleeding upon the ground, and he availed himself of the lucky chance, by seizing his enemy by the hair of his head, and pummelling him with the other hand in the face, until he had effectually closed up one of his eyes.

We had considerable difficulty in parting these enraged combatants, who, still burning with fury after we had separated them, seized their hats, in spite of what we could say or do, and sallied forth as they were into the street, covered with blood, dirt, and cork black, yet vowing, with bitter imprecations, the most desperate revenge against each other. While to add to the diversion of the scene, Father Murphy O' Carroll, who enjoyed the frolic as much as any of us, shouted after them, in a loud voice, "Erin-go-bragh, you milk sops! 'tis not in the brave country of Ireland that the boys get drunk before the fish is off the table!" And, to do the ghostly father justice, this

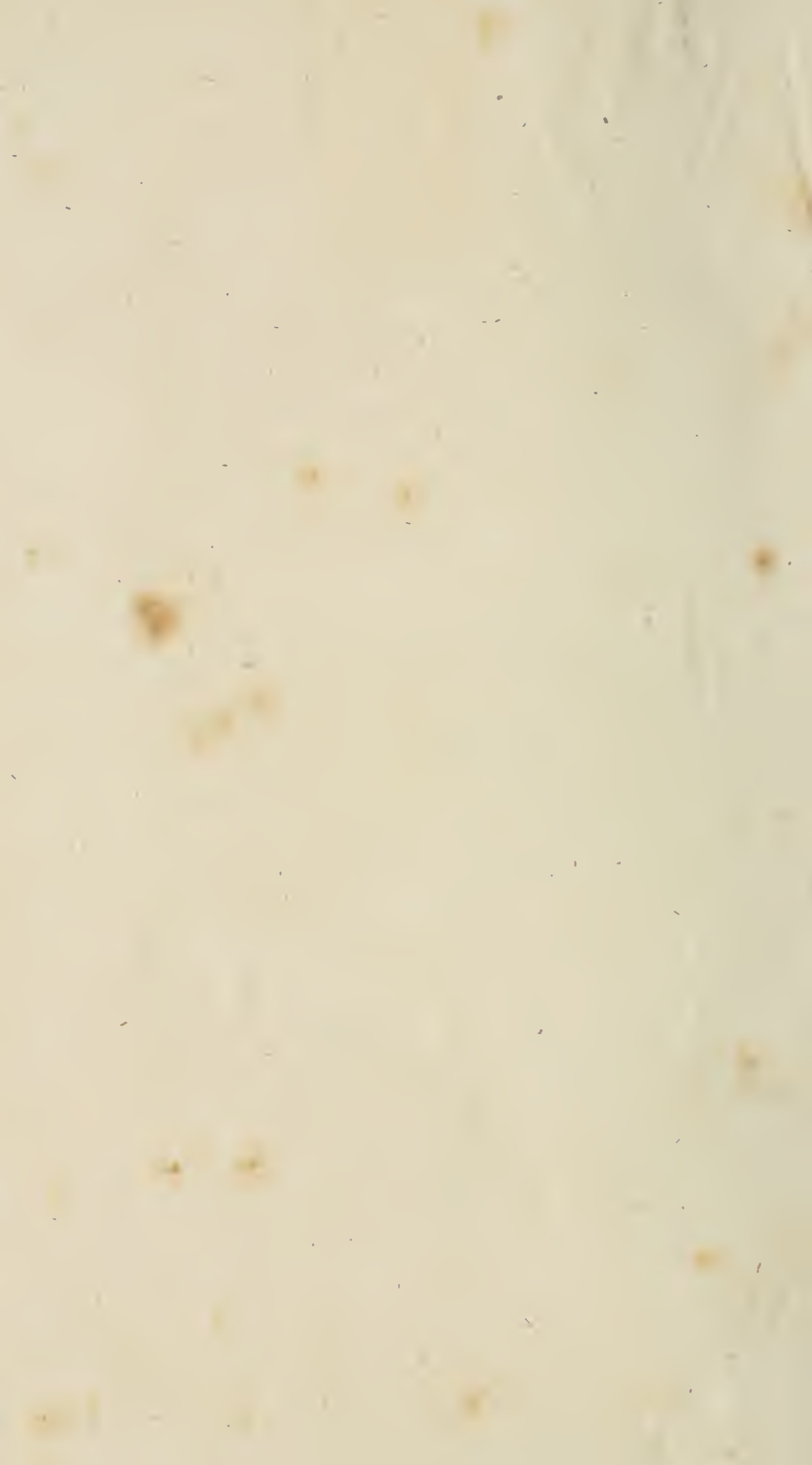
was very far from being his case, for, after tucking another bottle of wine under his belt, he departed, sufficiently sober to confess and absolve sins, or perform any other of the mysterious duties of his holy profession.

END OF VOL I.

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